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CORASMIN.



CORASMIN,
OR,
THE MINISTER;
A ROMANCE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE SWISS EMIGRANTS.

VOLUME III.

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CORASMIN,

OR

THE MINISTER.



BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

I SEE distinctly now the advantage which is to be drawn from Alvanda.— By his means we may remove Corasmin from court, and obtain scope for our operations there. Fortunately, there has been in this part of the kingdom a few disturbances, slight indeed, and the result of its recent subjection ; but which

it was possible to represent as somewhat serious. You may suppose that I was not very diligent in my attempts to allay them. I had my connexions among the ringleaders, which I took care should turn to our benefit. The next object was, to prevail upon Alvanda to write such a letter as might make the minister judge his presence necessary, in order to suppress the disorder. I acted upon him by mixed motives; for he would by no means avowedly consent to second our project. I exaggerated the disorder to the utmost possible degree; I used every argument to persuade him, that it was such as actually to call for the presence of Corasmin. At the same time, I secretly allowed him to perceive the consequences, which might follow the temporary removal of that minister from court. I fed him with the belief, that through our means, when the two rival claims were thus placed on a level, his

would immediately preponderate. I found infinite difficulty in succeeding; for his character is bold and open, averse to art or stratagem, and, whenever he obtained a glimpse of his own secret motives, he shrunk from them. However, by constant assiduity, and by hurrying him forward, without leaving time for reflection, I at last gained my object. Now, Kavidi, as soon as Corasmin sets out, I will repair to the capital, for I wish to be at the main scene of action. You will then supply my place here, where your presence may be extremely important, as Alvanda's steadiness is not to be relied upon. Unless narrowly watched, he is every moment in danger of giving us the slip. Inform me, the moment that the minister's journey hither is announced.

CORASMIN *to* ZINGANI.

THE last accounts from Alvanda are such as have determined me to set out to visit him in his government. In confidence I tell you, that it is not merely the aspect of public affairs in that quarter that appears to require my presence. There is, in the last proceedings of our friend, something which I do not entirely comprehend. In communicating his diplomatic successes, he has lately given way to some ebullitions of vanity rather extravagant, which I should, however, consider as venial. But there is something in his account of the disturbances in his district, which, were it not

that his character is so remote from art or deceit, would appear extremely suspicious. I am particularly ill satisfied with the description of men whom he retains about him, and who seem to engross his confidence. You have already heard my opinion of Bostanga, which is more and more confirmed by his overstrained demonstration of zeal in our cause. Here we have now another, who resembles, and I understand is entirely devoted to him; a creature that prostrates himself in the dust before me:—I like him still less. This is one grand reason, why I judge it expedient for me to pay a visit to Alvanda. I wish to observe precisely the manner in which he is proceeding; and if, as I suspect, there appear some reason to be dissatisfied, I may wean him from his errors in the most persuasive and confidential manner. Above all, I may prevail upon him to withdraw his con-

fidence from these men. Let it not be said, that nothing is yet proved against them, and that my unfavourable impressions may be ill-founded. The choice of those into whose hands we entrust the fate of mankind, is one in which we never can be too scrupulous. Better far a negative injustice to one, than lasting injury to thousands. I go, therefore, not without some sacrifice; for it is, as you know, this journey alone which now retards an event, to which I have long looked forward with a pleasing impatience; and, short as this interval may be, to me it appears very long. But the service of my country requires that I should go; and with this I will not suffer any personal interest, even this greatest, to interfere. I go; but in the hopes of a speedy and satisfactory return.

SELMIDA *to* HINDALI.

YES, my friend, every obstacle to the event you mention is now removed, except indeed one, which promises to interfere only a short delay. I can now dispense with those arguments which you seem still to think it your duty to urge, with the view of reconciling me to the approaching union. There is no longer any thing in it from which I shrink. You, I trust, will not suspect, that the vain pomp which surrounds him, useful indeed for the multitude, forms any part of that which renders him so great in my eye. But the idea of the thousands who are made happy through

him, identifying itself with his, multiplies as it were and aggrandizes it, till the utmost stretch of my soul becomes scarcely sufficient to grasp it. I look forward, with a solemn pleasing awe, to this that I am to be. It will be mine to cheer and support him amid his arduous and pleasing task: I may even, in some humbler degree, share and second his diffusive beneficence. Much, which is now only hope, may then be realized. These thoughts render the situation to which I am destined no longer appalling to me; and if I still feel some timidity, in exposing myself to its blaze, if even this short respite be somewhat grateful, imagine not that I could ever wish it to be more than a respite.

From the Same to the Same.

It is not, my dear friend, without peculiar reluctance, that I take up my pen on the subject respecting which I am now to write to you. Yet dark hints are given, and by those who ought to be well informed, as if all at court were not as it ought: they seem to intimate, that some guilty intrigue is in motion. Bostanga, it is certain, is often with the king, and oftener, too, than is publicly known. There is something in that man which always struck me with involuntary dread. A profound and terrible energy, a depth of dissimulation which few can fathom, an ambition which can

never rest while it sees any thing above it;—these appeared to me always the leading traits of his character. I know that Corasmin feels the same, though not quite in the degree that I do. Then that fawning creature that attends him as his satellite; who does not seem to have energy to conceive himself any daring guilt, but would be a ready instrument in the hands of the other. Dalinda too! the king!—Have you heard any rumours on that subject? Trust me, my friend, it is no trivial apprehension that impels me to write in this manner. I cannot shake off the fear that oppresses and dims all the bright prospect before me. I feel most reluctant to write to Corasmin myself on the subject, above all on such vague grounds. He could scarcely fail to consider me as thus stepping out of my natural sphere. What is your impression, and that of your husband? If it be the same as mine, he

might easily find the means of warning Corasmin how very dangerous 'his absence may prove. I beseech you seriously to consider this.

CORASMIN *to* ZINGANI.

I HAVE now spent some days with Alvanda. I found him somewhat in the disposition that I had suspected. His character was always rather deficient in stability; and the popularity which he enjoys in this district, with the success of the recent negociations in which he has been engaged, have produced an extraordinary degree of elation. He seems even to view me with a shade of suspi-

cion; at least to suspect, that I do not estimate him quite so highly as his merits deserve. With regard to the popular disturbances, they are so trivial, that I cannot imagine what can have induced him to consider my presence as necessary; nor has he even been able to give a distinct explanation. I find, therefore, a change in him, with which I have no reason to be satisfied. Yet his administration is admirable; and he has so succeeded, in the difficult task of conciliating the affections of our new subjects, that, independent of all personal attachment, I should think it a decided duty to continue him in his present station. His wrongs are only against myself, and they consist merely in a suspension of that entire confidence which once reigned between us. What most discomposes me, is the nature of those in whom it seems now to be chiefly placed; men whom I can never either love or trust,

and whose sincerity, the longer I observe them, appears always the more problematical. It is vain, however, that I have thrown out hints upon this subject : his attachment to these persons appears rooted ; and, instead of shewing any disposition to remove them from his own person, he importunes me with requests to advance them higher in our councils. But I am deaf to every such entreaty, and am determined to withdraw, without delay, the small share of favour which his urgent request has hitherto induced me to grant to them. Nay, I cannot help feeling somewhat uneasy that Bostanga should be in the capital and at court : this shall not continue longer than my return, which will be speedy.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

My object is accomplished ; the ground is cleared !—Corasmin removed, there remains no one who can cope with me in the management of court affairs. My first care has been, under the character of his most intimate friend, to insinuate suspicions of him into the King's mind, and prepare the way for his believing whatever it may be found convenient for us to assert. One day that I had the opportunity of some confidential conversation, I began : “ I know not how, but an idea has spread, as if Corasmin wished to be considered as having done all ; as if your Majesty, were merely his instru-

ment. I cannot imagine how such an idea can have arisen, it is so different from the fact. The strangest of all is, that they quote expressions of his own, which seem actually to imply it. It is inconceivable what he can have said that can be so wrested." The King replied: "I am not jealous of my minister; not at all. At the same time, I should not exactly like the idea of being considered as a cypher in my own kingdom. Whom have you heard talking in this manner? what has been said?" "Oh! Sire, it is quite astonishing what speeches have been put into his mouth; how far he is asserted to have gone: and the authority was such, as, for any thing else, I should have thought indisputable. But I cannot credit it; I cannot reconcile it to my idea of his character. Impossible, surely; quite impossible!"—"Indeed, I cannot think it at all possible," replied the King. But I saw he was

uneasy, and anxious to hear more. I soon procured that I should be invested with a commission to trace the authors of these rumours, as if for the sole purpose of punishing them. This is a confidential office, which secures me free access to the royal person; and I can easily contrive, all as in friendship to Corasmin, to make the result appear as unsatisfactory as may suit our purpose. Meantime, Daulinda does wonders. So far has she insinuated herself into the affections of the King, that I am inclined to believe, had it been for our interest, she might, by this time, have taken her place openly. But I have been careful to impress upon both parties, the entire inconsistency of such an arrangement with the continuance of Corasmin in power. We thus secure her as our fixed partisan; and we secretly prepare the mind of the King, for listening to whatever may afford a reason to rid himself of a minister, whose

presence stands in the way of his pleasures. Yet it is wonderful with what pertinacity he still adheres to him, and how extremely difficult it is to wean him from this partiality. Dalinda, whose gay indolence revolts at any arduous undertaking, could scarcely be prevailed upon to enter upon it. "You have thrown upon me," said she, "a most tremendous task: the king is absolutely wedded to Corasmin and all his chimeras. I do not see how it is possible to shake him." "Madam," said I, "be assured we appreciate all your difficulties: but what is it which charms and address like yours will not finally accomplish? Consider, Madam, that as the difficulty will be the glory: Think of such a triumph. We will all consider you as the pillar on which our fortune rests. Recollect, too, the turn which affairs are likely to take, when Corasmin returns, as he quickly will; for truly I much fear, that his cre-

dit and yours are quite incompatible." Thus, by the mingled influence of pride and fear, I keep her fixed to her purpose. Seconded by her, we are sensibly gaining ground; and I hope that soon our grand operations may be safely commenced. Meantime, let me hear from you.

KAVIDI *to* BOSTANGA.

I NEED not say with what satisfaction I received your last letter. Our affairs here also have gone on tolerably; though I must be allowed to say, that you were not ill advised in having a person such as myself on the spot; one full of expe-

dients, never at a loss ; all our schemes were on the point of becoming abortive. This very morning Alvanda sends for me : he was pacing the room in a sort of pleasing doubtful agitation. “ Now see, my friend, what Corasmin does for me ; see, while I was plotting his fall, what a generous friend ! ” He then shews me the appointment to an office, of which he has been long desirous. He continues : “ He could justly reproach me ; yet the little he said was so tempered with candour, with kindness ; all the warmth of our youthful friendship revived. ” And then, to my utter despair, he begins extolling Corasmin, as if there had not been a mortal on earth like him. I opposed nothing to the torrent ; I assented : This allowed his first fire to evaporate, and gave me time to consider what was to be done. “ Be assured,” said I, “ that there are not two men on earth who esteem Corasmin more highly than myself and

Bostanga. I will show you a letter I have just received, in which you will see how he is mentioned, (a most judicious precaution, by the way, on your part). Far be it from us to prompt any measure by which the country should be deprived of his services. But it is very well known, that all the popularity of the present administration lies in another quarter. I can never cease to think it more desirable, that *he* had been here, and you where he is. As to the present appointment, I can fairly conjecture its motives. I remember his proposing it at a time, when the King was urging an arrangement, which would have placed you nearer his person. Well, the choice is prudent, or at least fortunate. Oh, Corasmin manages admirably! I admire him beyond measure." Such discourse soon produced a happy effect; and, before we parted, I had the satisfaction of hearing him declare, that he *scarcely thought* he

could proceed. This placed me quite at ease; and, having warded off this blow, I trust we shall not soon have another equally formidable to encounter.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

You may come and join me here. I am satisfied with your management: Alvanda has done his part; and woe be to him if he now attempts to obstruct us! All is matured for the great crisis, which must be precipitated by the speedily announced return of Corasmin to the capital. That city he must never enter: Vizignan must never again behold him; if he once did, all would be lost. The King must be

hurried to action: when the deed is done he will be anxious for reasons to justify it to his own mind. But listen to my plan: *We* must not appear; no clue must be given, which can lead to a suspicion that we are at all concerned; we must be secret as the springs which move the automaton. When this plot, so carefully digested, of which he is to appear guilty, shall be made to transpire, the King must imagine the discovery to be all his own. Disavow all knowledge, all idea of it; with caution too, lest there should be any danger of being believed. But I flatter myself, that our scheme is so deeply laid, and all its parts so well arranged, that failure is almost impossible. So then, let Corasmin come, we are fully prepared to receive him. The mine is laid, and will quickly spring.

VIZIGNAN *to* BOSTANGA.

I AM, beyond expression, astonished and shocked at the intelligence which I have now to communicate. Corasmin, my minister, in whom I have placed my entire confidence, stands accused of the blackest treason. I had, indeed, of late found some cause to doubt his possessing the exalted merit which I had ascribed to him: Suspicious circumstances had occurred; some hints which you involuntarily dropt, particularly put me on my guard; but I never could have conceived any thing resembling the present discovery. It would seem, that he had formed a design to dethrone me, and,

trusting to the nation's attachment, to usurp to himself the sovereign power. I at first gave no credit to it whatever, till, upon inquiry, the proof appeared inconceivably strong. I see now you only in whom I can place confidence. You have no strong ties which unite you with him; and, while sharing the general admiration of which he had rendered himself the object, you did not remain blind to certain unaccountable and inconsistent parts of his conduct. The extraordinary zeal which you have hitherto shown for my service, encourages me, in this extremity, to call for your aid. You will soon be put in possession of the grounds upon which my suspicions rest. Examine, investigate, and let me know the result. The commission is delicate with which I entrust you: you will execute it, I trust, with prudence, with secrecy. Do justice to the accused;

while you provide for the safety of your Sovereign.

BOSTANGA to VIZIGNAN.

NEVER was mortal bewildered, amazed, as I am, by the letter which I have just received from your Majesty. Corasmin a traitor! Heavens! I can never believe it. I cannot reconcile it to any idea I had formed of him. Your Majesty must lay before me proofs the most unanswerable, before I can be satisfied. Ah! Sire, guard against listening to the voice of envy, which attacks often the fairest characters. There were certainly some parts of his conduct which

I could not altogether account for, which sometimes excited involuntary suspicions ; but there was nothing which could lead me to suspect any thing like this. Your Majesty's will shall be obeyed : I will instantly proceed to inquire and examine, in the sanguine hope, that the character of my friend may be fully justified in the eyes of your Majesty. Certainly, if there really were any truth in the accusation, the most prompt and instant measures would be required ; for the universal popularity which he has acquired would render him truly formidable. But I still fondly flatter myself, that my examination will lead to quite a different result.

From the Same to the Same.

WITH mingled astonishment and horror I take up my pen. Who could have believed it? This plot, which to me appeared quite inconceivable, really exists; and the discovery which saves the throne and kingdom is due, not to us, who ought to have made it, but to the profound and vigilant wisdom of your Majesty. You have indeed shewn a penetration far surpassing that of all your ministers. I am truly ashamed of my own supineness: I know not what excuse I can offer: the truth is, that apparent zeal for the public good which he so ostentatiously exhibited, complete-

ly blinded me ; that, indeed, was always my weak side. Nothing, in my opinion, except instant death, can be an adequate punishment : No other measure can secure the safety of your Majesty. Already he is about to return, and proceed to the execution of this infernal scheme, the success of which he considers as sure. He must not reach the capital : he must be intercepted, and cut off. Your Majesty has only to give the word ; the execution is speedy and sure.

VIZIGNAN *to* BOSTANGA.

YOUR communication has been most painful to me ;—it has dissipated all the

hopes which I had begun to form. Your zeal and activity deserve every praise ; nor can I feel surprise at the advice which they have prompted. But, Bostanga, I am not yet prepared for proceeding to such an extremity. A partiality still lingers in me for one so long loved and valued ; and there is even a feeling in me, as if it were impossible that he could really be thus guilty. Nay, there are points in the evidence which seem to me defective ; there appears still a possibility, that all may be cleared. Would it not be just that he should have an opportunity of being heard, and of answering for himself ? Your justice appears to me too summary, too precipitate. You yourself will, I think, on consideration, admit, that your zeal has on this occasion hurried you somewhat too far.

BOSTANGA to VIZIGNAN.

THE letter which I have just perused bears most amply the stamp of your Majesty's goodness and benignity. I cannot fail readily to enter into your wishes, because they are the very same which I myself experience in the strongest degree. I feel the utmost temptation to accede to your Majesty's proposal, for it is in vain that I attempt to divest myself of my partialities for this man. But, after what your Majesty has brought to light, I do not see how it is possible, with any regard to the safety of your Majesty, to advise a moment's delay. The danger is imminent: in two days he will be in this

city, crowded with his adherents, whom he has been indefatigable in securing: It is impossible to foretel what may be the consequence. As to his ever being able to acquit himself, of this I have not the smallest hope. After an investigation, conducted with the most anxious bias in his favour, the proofs appeared quite irresistible. I entreat your Majesty's permission to deliver Cashmire and the world from this monster. The idea of the danger which impends over so sacred a head, will banish that reluctance which must otherwise have been strongly felt; and ere another day elapse, the kingdom, I trust, will be delivered from this alarming peril.

Dalinda has just come to me, almost speechless with alarm. She had heard of the conspiracy by which your Majesty's life and crown are threatened, and hurried to me in order to learn all. She carries with her this letter. The excel-

lent understanding of this amiable lady, and her zealous attachment to your Majesty's person, render her admirably qualified for giving advice in so critical an emergency. I scarcely think it possible to be misled by any opinion she may give on the subject.

BOSTANGA to KAVIDI.

I AM pleased to find that you are here. We are at the summit of our wishes: Sentence is pronounced on our detested rival, and I am named to rule in his stead. After all the preparation made, it was not without the utmost difficulty that I could wrest from Vizignan the permis-

sion to sacrifice him. Dalinda's aid was necessary ; and what is strange, I found difficulty with her also. Whether from some idle scruples, or, as I rather suspect, from some lingering personal partiality, even she pled for his life. It was not till I had clearly proved, that such lenity would ensure the ruin of all our schemes, that she could be prevailed upon to undertake her part. She undertook it, however, and has succeeded. And now, Kavidi, it behoves us to exert our utmost diligence. It were shameful, indeed, if, after having brought our affairs so nearly to a successful issue, we should, by any negligence, suffer the victim to escape. Mysterious secrecy has hitherto covered our movements, and he cannot, I think, have received the slightest intimation of what awaits him. Let every avenue be guarded ; let him be beset both before and behind : chuse well the place of action. Caution is to be observed ;

for, were it done too publicly, the people might take the alarm. Let the spot be retired and sequestered, and be prompt. Nothing must be known till all is over: then the King's authority produced will silence all murmurs. To action, then; let us instantly proceed.

SELMIDA *to* CORASMIN.

IF you ever loved me, or ever viewed me with regard, do not, I beseech you, refuse to comply with what I now ask. Go not to Cashmire; go not to the capital; but come here by the route which the bearer of this will point out, and by no other. You shall then hear what I

dare not trust my pen to write. Think not, I entreat you, that I say this lightly, or from mere woman's fears; my reasons have too deep a foundation. Be assured, a moment's delay may be fatal. Come; I conjure you, come.

KAVIDI *to* BOSTANGA.

I AM very much concerned to acquaint you, that the event, against the possibility of which we seemed to have guarded, has, by some fatality, taken place. While Corasmin appeared to be proceeding on his journey without the slightest suspicion, and to be completely hemmed in on every side, he suddenly disappear-

ed. Some observations led to the suspicion that he might have taken the road to Chinar, where there was well known to be an attracting influence. We hastened thither, and, on our arrival, the evasive answers that were given seemed to confirm the surmise; yet, after a search, which it was impossible that any thing should escape, no trace of him could be found. If, therefore, he had been there, he must already have left it. Detachments are sent after him in every possible direction, and scarcely a chance seems left of his reaching the frontier. Meantime, let us enjoy this triumph which your genius has gained; for, after all, the kingdom is ours. Corasmin himself, proscribed and exiled, will be very little an object of dread.

SELMIDA *to* HINDALI.

OH! my friend, how can I write to you in such dreadful circumstances? and yet, to write is some relief. You see guilt triumphing; you see this utter subversion of our hopes: but you know not all. Learn that, upon intelligence which I found means to convey, Corasmin came hither. We seemed to have saved him: But suddenly strange sounds were heard; the house was entered:—it was a band led by the detested Kavidî, in search of his illustrious victim. He had just retired to his apartment; all the passages were filled; no time nor opportunity to warn him of his danger, unless by what

he might himself overhear. Quickly, as by instinct, they proceed to the chamber where he then was. I stood without, awaiting the issue. Imagine my condition ! But no sound of triumph issued ; and they soon came out, evidently without their object. Joyful surprise was my first feeling ; yet an uneasiness struck me. The moment that it was possible, I rushed into the room. I called in a gentle voice :—no answer. I eagerly ransacked every corner ; yet, though I knew it to be impossible that he should have left the apartment, it soon became evident that there he was not. The storm beat against the window : I threw it up, and looked down upon the Jalama rolling its troubled waves beneath. It was a furious tempest ; the waters roared, and the winds contended through the dark air. The dreadful conviction flashed upon me, that into that gulf he had plunged.

To save us, he had sacrificed himself, a much nobler victim. And, though the elements should spare him, what dangers beyond ! what distracting suspense ! what an abyss of calamity on every side ! Oh, Hindali, can you not come to me ?

SELMIDA'S MOTHER *to* HINDALI.

It will indeed be a very singular kindness, if, notwithstanding the strong ties which detain you, you could now come and visit my daughter. Perhaps her exhibition of last night may have made you believe, like others, that her heart is at ease : Oh ! I must tell you of that. It was only on that morning, that by a lady

who came from the capital to visit us, we learned, that a fete was to be held in celebration of this pretended deliverance. This lady was, I believe, a friend; yet not one whom we could fully admit to our confidence. After mentioning the circumstance, she inquired, with an air of peculiar scrutiny, if my daughter would be there? I was most unprepared for the question, feeling the thing impossible, yet anxious to hide the reason why. I threw out vague doubts; from the distance, slight indisposition, some other causes. The lady then said, "Indeed, Madam, I am of opinion, that, if your daughter possibly can, it were of importance that she should go. Strong suspicions are circulated at court, as if your family were devoted to Corasmin, and had even been accessory to his escape. The King listens unwillingly, for he has long esteemed you; yet continued urgency may prevail. I know, that the

appearance of Selmida at this fete, is considered as a grand test of the dispositions of the family : if she absents herself, without some very obvious reason, I know not what may be the consequence." Extremely embarrassed, I could only repeat my former doubts, and then change the subject as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, all had been overheard by my daughter, who, unable to appear, had, on the arrival of a stranger, taken refuge in a neighbouring cabinet. As soon as our visitor had departed she came out, and clasping her hands with an air of woful determination, said, " I will go ; there shall not be seen there a gayer face than mine." It was in vain that I fell on my knees, and implored that she would not. She remained fixed to her purpose ; she went, and witnessed this dismal triumph : and certainly no one who then saw her could have suspected, that she was a wretch

lost to every hope. I only, under this shew of gaiety, could discern the mortal despair beneath. I hastened her away the moment appearances would permit. But what a night was that spent after this dreadful effort! Then, indeed, I saw all the greatness of the sacrifice which, on our account, she had made. I am alarmed for her; a fever agitates her frame: the loss of an object so dear to her, with the dreadful train of accompanying disasters, seem almost beyond her power to support. I am truly sorry to ask you, under your circumstances, to leave home; yet, if you could, no favour would be so great.

CORASMIN *to* SELMIDA.

CONCEIVING that you will take an interest in my fate; that you will be anxious to know whether I still live, I have sought an opportunity of conveying this letter. You cannot be at a loss to conjecture how I disappeared. I heard the house entered by the hostile band; I heard them demand me with a fierce and insulting tone, and exclaim, "We know he is here; we know you harbour him; we must have instant admittance." Not a moment was to be lost: If I remained, without saving myself, I undid the whole of a family so dear to me. I opened the window and looked

down upon the Jalama, which rolled darkly beneath its tumultuous waves. I threw over hastily whatever could afford any trace of whose residence this apartment had been ; then, standing on the outward brink, and shutting the sash after me, I plunged headlong into the abyss of rolling waters. I sunk ; but soon rising to the surface, and inured to swimming, I was enabled to support myself. I then suffered myself to be carried down by the current, till I should be out of view of my pursuers, whom I heard already in the chamber above, exclaiming, “ He is certainly here ; he cannot escape us ; let every corner be searched.” I was now in considerable danger ; but at length, struggling against the impetuous waves, I reached the opposite shore. I wandered on, bewildered, and scarcely knowing where I was, or what had befallen me. A change so incredi-

ble, from being minister of so great a kingdom, to be a lonely fugitive, with instant death menacing me, confounded my senses. Soon I heard cries through the troubled air, and could distinguish one exclaiming, " Spare him not ; make no attempt to take him alive : let instant death be his portion. Such are the orders we have received. A thousand rupees for his head !" They passed almost close to me ; but thick darkness, and the entangled forest, screened me from their view. Had any one discovered and demanded my name, my last hour was come ; for I would not have denied myself. I was fully determined, not to stoop so low for life. Gradually, however, the sound of their steps died away, and I was left to consider what course I was now to take. Should I openly present myself, and demand justice ? ' This seemed the noblest part ; but what I

had seen and heard sufficiently testified, that I should thus be rushing on certain fate. Yet would I not avail myself of any plea which necessity might afford, for disguise and deception: I would not descend from what I am, to save this remnant of life. Thus musing, I arrived on the banks of the lake. The storm had ceased: the moon burst forth with unclouded lustre, and spread her silver light on the smooth waters; a gentle gale stirred the trees which hung over its brink; while opposite, the faint forms of woods, mansions, and gentle hills, were seen in softened obscurity. All the tumult of my soul was hushed: exhausted by fatigue, I sunk down and slept peaceful, amid the storm of fate which was raging around. The first dawn awaked me, and I hesitated whither to direct my steps, when the door of a neat mansion that stood near me opened, and an old man of a pleasing and respectable

air came out. Struck with my appearance, which was doubtless much disordered, he came up, eyed me attentively, and said, " May I ask who you are?" then cast a half look of recognition. " My friend," said I, " you have now an opportunity of enriching yourself. You have only to inform ; a high reward is yours." He clasped his hands, and remained fixed in the attitude of deep meditation ; then, when I asked why he hesitated, he exclaimed, " Oh ! Sir, how much you wrong me ! you are my greatest earthly benefactor ; to you I owe this dwelling, these fields, my all !" " My good friend, we do not even know each other ; I cannot flatter myself with having been thus useful to you. Doubtless these possessions have been the fruits of your own industry." " Oh ! Sir, these fruits would never have been enjoyed, had they not, by your laws, been guarded against oppression. This spot which

which I inherit, the morsel which hard labour earned,—these never were mine, till you secured them. It was under shelter of your laws, that I established the little commerce which has nearly enriched me. Oh! Sir, this is the saddest day that Cashmire ever saw : There is not a true Cashmirian heart that will not think light of any danger incurred in your cause.” “ My friend,” said I, “ your words are grateful to me. But since you will not betray me, do not interfere : Leave me to fate, or to heaven, if it chuse to interpose ; but risk not to deprive that house of its venerable head.” “ You cannot go this way or that, without rushing on certain destruction.—Every path is beset ; I am not safe if you are seen departing from these premises, and no information given. But come, and I will save you.” “ My friend, how can you possibly do so, without exposing yourself to the utmost danger ?” “ I will

shew you how: I am about to conduct a small caravan to the frontier; in it I can conceal you so, that none of those who are in search of you can possibly make the discovery. It was of this I was thinking, when you wronged me so far, as to believe that I was meditating to betray you." He shewed me his plan, which certainly promised fair for concealment; and since a prospect of deliverance thus offered, it seemed almost a criminal sacrifice of myself to reject it. I accompanied the worthy man to his cottage.

Thus have I, by an event which could never have been anticipated, obtained a prospect of escaping from personal danger. Would to Heaven, that my hopes for my country were equally auspicious! But from you, my most dear and amiable friend, I have to ask a service which interests me beyond expression. You see that I fly; convinced that guilt is all tri-

umphant, unwillingly, indignantly I fly. Before my Sovereign can have been induced to issue such a mandate, guilt must have been imputed; and, in my flight, there is no distinction from that of a criminal. I long, then, inexpressibly, to appear and face my accusers; and if there be any hope of a fair trial, scarcely is there a danger which I would not brave to obtain it. I beseech you, in the answer which you give, to consult my honour rather than my life.

SELMIDA *to* CORASMIN.

OH, with what delight, what gratitude, have I received your letter! You raise

me, as if from the tomb. You live! What a light bursts upon this chaos of guilt and fate. You live! I have nothing more, at this moment, to ask of Heaven. To me you seemed for ever lost in that frightful abyss. Oh, may providence and your own good deeds be still your guardian! But what is it that you say of returning here? Ah! you little know then by whom, or how all things are governed. Fly; the sword is drawn; no right, no innocence can save you; instantly fly. Fly rather, till half the earth be between us. There is not a moment of safety for you, so long as you remain within these fatal boundaries. Never think then of returning, but continue your kindness, in transmitting to me, through every secure channel, intelligence of where you are, what you are doing, of every event which befalls you. Let us thus do something to soften the horrors of this dreadful separation. For

me, I scarcely know where I am, or what it is that is passing around me. But this I see, that it is guilt which has triumphed: It is not we alone that are to suffer. Upon that subject, however, I may well spare you. Let me then hear from you again as soon as possible; though, I hope, from a great distance.

CORASMIN *to* SELMIDA.

YOUR most grateful letter has just reached me. What reverse could be so mighty, under which an interest such as you express would not console me? I now consider myself as in safety, though still within the Cashmirian frontier; but

in this wild and secluded situation there is, I think, no one who knows, and no one who, if they knew, would betray me. Yet will I not remain long; but, at present, there are still motives which make me unwilling to remove far from the capital. And now, my dearest friend, there is a subject on which I must seriously write to you. I will not now say, with what sentiments I anticipated that union of which I had so near a prospect. Certainly none inspired by any private object, could come in competition with them. My bliss seemed unmixed. In securing a companion so precious, a sharer of every most secret thought, I had also the pleasure of thinking that those qualities, over which a trembling modesty had hitherto thrown a veil, would thus be exhibited in full view to an admiring world. Now, all is changed: I can no longer offer a lot worthy of you. Born to so brilliant a fortune,

with every quality which can adorn the most splendid of courts, you ought not to share the destiny of an exile, a fugitive. No ; let our sentiments again return within the limits of that unalterable friendship, to which you so long wished to confine them. Still cherish for me in secret that sacred sentiment ; but do not, in attaching yourself by closer ties, renounce all the fair prospects that lie before you. I absolve you from every obligation which binds you to so inauspicious a union. We are then only friends ; and if, since a safe channel has been opened, you will still continue to hold intercourse with me as such, a rich store of felicity will remain. One exertion of this friendship I now venture to ask, which will not, I trust, excite your surprise, and which you are perfectly qualified to undertake. How is it with Cashmire ? how is it with my country ? This is to me the subject of ceaseless

anxiety, yet I can know it here only by imperfect rumour. I still have hope that it may not suffer deeply by the change. Base indeed is the part which this man has acted. Inflamed by a guilty thirst of power, he has trampled upon every tie of honour and gratitude ; yet, now that he has gained his object, the temptation may cease ; he may use well his ill-gotten triumph. Myself have been wronged ; but what is this to me, if my country suffer not ? Or, if we cannot hope for disinterested public zeal ; to see our improvements carried forward, or new schemes for public welfare arising ; yet prudence, self-interest well understood, would deter from subverting those already established, and which have received the sanction of public opinion. The happiness already produced may remain unimpaired, though no farther addition should be made. It were enough for me to witness the welfare of my coun-

try, though denied the sublime pleasure of being its instrument. Ye powers more than mortal, who preside over the destiny of empires, to you I call in this dreadful hour ! May this people, who are dearer to me than life, never have cause to lament that I am removed from them ; still may they prosper, though under other auspices. The Supreme Legislator of nature has destined me no longer to fill his place on earth : To that awful will I bow submissive. But still our interests are the same, however widely our fates are separated. There can be no happiness for me distinct from theirs. Tell me then, my dear friend, I beseech you, tell me what I have to hope. I tremble for the answer ; yet I must have it. I wait, then, your letter, with the utmost anxiety.

SELMIDA to CORASMIN.

I HAVE perused with extreme satisfaction that part of your letter which assures me of your safety ; yet still, so long as you are within the limits of Cashmire, I cannot be wholly at ease. But what succeeded was less grateful. Had I then given you any ground for the suspicion which you seem to entertain ? Did you imagine me a mere insect fluttering round your sunshine, that would shrink from the first blast of adversity ? Was there any appearance, as if the vain pomp which surrounded you were all that rendered you great in my eyes ? Yet imagine not that I am angry : truly

this were not the time. I feel even all that is generous in the offer which you make. But rest assured, that this tempest which has burst upon us, instead of separating, has united us more closely, more indissolubly than before. Then I could not, ought not, to be the first object of your affections; an earlier and more sacred vow had bound you: But now I may claim you without a rival. I feel a secret, half guilty pleasure, in having you all mine. I almost envied you to the world. Know, that, whether in prosperity or adversity, whether an exile, or the pride of your native land, still you are mine; still the tie which binds us is not less sacred. Nay, though we were never more to meet on earth, though fate had placed between us an eternal barrier, still you would be the sole object of my affections. The remembrance of you would supply the place of every other object. Since then

I still hang upon you, surely you will not cast me off.

But you ask me besides, as you are well entitled, to write what is passing here, and what prospects there are for that country to which you have so entirely devoted yourself. In other circumstances how gladly should I have undertaken the task. But, alas! you know not what you ask: Oh! Corasmin, turn your eyes from the fatal scene. Why should that generous heart bleed in vain over the woes of humanity? Think of a permitting, of an avenging Heaven; think of good arising out of evil: draw consolation from any source, rather than from such a hope. Dwell not, with a sad and trembling anxiety, upon those whose fate you no longer rule. Let science and nature open their stores; seek those abundant sources which must exist in a mind so richly endowed; reserve yourself for a happier period; and

let all things here, as to you, be as if they were not.

SELMIDA *to* HINDALI.

I AM now able to write as before, since unpropitious circumstances still prevent us from meeting. Yes, you may be easy on my account; I am well, since Corasmin lives. This alarm has been fortunate for me; it has rendered comparatively light all the rest of this scene of calamity. But how is it, that your language too, my friend, seems to resemble that of those ordinary friends, who suppose that the present catastrophe has broken, has at least weakened the

tie by which I was bound to him? No; that tie, sacred before, has now become more than ever indissoluble. All the causes which formerly kept us asunder have ceased to exist. To my enraptured soul it seemed almost profanation, that the idol of its affections should be the object of vulgar homage. Now, he is known and valued only by the congenial few; he is praised only by those who are worthy to praise him; the crowd of sunshine friends have fled, and left him wholly mine. That dreadful moment which deprived Cashmire of him, has rendered our fates for ever one. My heart, my affections, all that is most sacred on earth, have made me his, as entirely as if our vows had been exchanged in the face of mankind. This is not the passion of a day: long intimacy, the perfect knowledge of what he is, have sunk it into my heart, till it cannot be eradicated; and if it did not at once take

root, it has now struck so deep as to defy all time and all absence. Though fate had for ever separated us, still he alone would be the husband of my heart. Not that I would proscribe every second passion; not that I deem woman thus bound to an eternal constancy: but there is that in him which cannot be supplied: she who has been honoured with his heart, ought always to remain satisfied with it alone. Never think of me otherwise then, my friend, than as the wife of the exiled Corasmin; and believe, that there is no extremity of the earth to which I would not cheerfully follow him.

BOSTANGA *to* ALVANDA.

I do not know, my dear Sir, if you are yet informed of the remarkable events which have taken place here. We have been all completely deceived as to Corasmin. His Majesty has made the discovery of a most shocking conspiracy, which he had formed, and which tended to the entire subversion of the royal authority. His projects, however, have proved abortive; and if he still lives, which is doubtful, it is as an exile and fugitive. His Majesty has insisted, that I shall occupy his place; but rest assured, that, notwithstanding your intimate connexion with him, we do not suspect you

of the slightest participation in his guilt. On the contrary, if you chuse to continue to act with me, as you did with him, you shall experience a still greater portion of favour. In proof of this, as I understand that your liberality has involved you in some pecuniary embarrassments, I have made a remittance, which, I apprehend, will entirely liberate you from this pressure. I shall be happy to learn, by the first convenient opportunity, your concurrence in these arrangements, which are, I trust, such as to merit your sanction.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

You must exert yourself; for we are threatened with a serious danger. Alvanda, you know, is rather a popular character, and liked by the King; so that, upon the whole, I judged it somewhat an object to retain him in our service. I wrote a letter to him, therefore, informing him of what had happened, delicately hinting, that I was to be quite the leading man; but, at the same time, that if he chose to act under us, he would find his situation rather improved than otherwise. Such an offer, had he listened to the dictates of common sense, was surely not to be rejected. Instead

of accepting it, what does he do? He sets out at once for the capital, raving like a madman, exclaiming that Corasmin is innocent, that he himself has acted like a villain, that he will force his way into the King's presence, and declare all. There is no time to be lost. Let neither of us, however, appear in the business; but find out Hallacu. I know that man; I have sure cause to know him. Put into his hands all the power necessary for securing this fanatic; then give him his instructions, which are these:—If by threats, or by promises, or by any other means whatever, he can make Alvanda pledge himself to become entirely subservient to our views, and to second them by every mode which we may judge expedient; then, not only will we spare him, but we will restore him to his former situation, with augmented lustre. If not,—you understand me. The man whom you employ may

be depended upon: he will not be fastidious when my interests are concerned.

ALVANDA to ZINGANI.

FROM the abode of death, in which I am now immured, an opportunity has unexpectedly offered, which makes me hope that a letter of mine may reach you,—not to save me, for that no mortal power can effect; but to declare before you, and every friend I have, my guilt and bitter repentance. I am in the hands of those accursed men, whom, to my own shame and my country's ruin, I have raised to this fatal greatness. I am well aware now, that my last hour

rapidly approaches. Oh, that heaven and earth were witness to the dreadful fate under which I suffer! Oh, righteous Heaven! well hast thou done, to employ against me first these instruments of thy wrath. I was offered life, splendour, had I been so lost—But, no! let not a ray of self-gratulation assuage the bitterness of this repentance. The evil is done, and can never be repaired. Would that Corasmin himself were here, that I might humble myself in the dust beneath him! But tell him, that all the horrors which can surround the death-bed of any mortal, were accumulated around mine; and all too little to drown my inward agony. Yet well I know, that to see me thus, would, to his generous soul, afford no consolation. I die then justly, and seek not to defend myself: yet would I have you view me as much misled indeed, yet not utterly depraved; as one who still loves, from his

inmost heart, the virtue which he has violated, and the friend whom he has betrayed. Demons, prepare all your instruments of vengeance; they will be relief to my racked soul! Farewell, my friend, it is time to think of that awful scene on which I am to enter, so ill prepared. Farewell.

HALLACU *to* BOSTANGA.

I WAS not long in executing the commission with which you entrusted me, through the medium of your friend. Alvanda, while he least dreaded it, was seized, and carried to a place where I could have him entirely at my disposal.

Your wishes were carefully attended to. I treated him with every attention : I made him, in your name, the most liberal offers, if he would merely listen to reason, and accept the advantageous situation offered to him. Instead of which, he continued his ravings, burst into the most furious invectives against your Excellency, cursing the hour that he ever knew you. There remained no choice. —You will have no more trouble from *him*.

BOSTANGA to KAVIDI.

EVERY thing has been admirably managed as to the affair of Alvanda. It is

plain, that nothing could ever have been made of this personage ; so that it is much better that we should be entirely rid of him. Meantime, Corasmin has quite disappeared ; and if unfortunately he still exists, no one at least can tell where. I now account our reign secure : every thing which threatened to oppose its establishment is laid in the dust. Now is the time to enjoy the victory we have gained. Before we can do so with effect, however, there must be a complete change in the present system. Much trouble will it cost, before it is possible to render this place at all equal to what it was, before Corasmin ruined it. There must be a great addition to our present funds ; and there must be an end to that narrow parsimony, which now cramps the disposal of every part of them. Unhappily, my predecessor has given up some of the surest and most productive branches ;—those levied upon commodities with

which the people could not dispense. It is easy to see, that the requiring them to pay these anew will be no grateful office. Nor is this all: the funds actually raised, instead of being left disposable, are in a great measure appropriated to certain undertakings, which do not suit our purposes at all. Yet the nation, and the King himself will murmur, if they are interrupted. Thus are we fettered: and meanwhile, we have not only to do something for ourselves and friends; we must also support the expenses of Dalinda; which, I plainly foresee, will not be inconsiderable. However, the nation must contribute; and if they take umbrage at our proceedings, means are not wanting of setting their ill-will at defiance. We shall easily secure the nobles to our interest, by restoring to them those rights over their vassals of which Corasmin had insidiously deprived them; for though he had by some means induced them to

acquiesce, it is impossible that they should not be gratified by having these ancient privileges restored. There are other departments, which imperiously require to be new-modelled. How scandalous, that the King, in his own courts, and from judges named by himself, should not be able to command a sentence such as he wishes ! Woe to them, should they dare hereafter to pronounce such verdicts as recent impunity has encouraged them to hazard ! This assembly of the nation, too, which he has so absurdly entailed as a permanent burden upon the administration ; nothing can proceed smoothly till we are disencumbered of it. In short, we cannot at once do all that would be desirable : We must temporize ; and must even pretend ourselves attached to measures, which we wait only a favourable opportunity of overthrowing. Thus, the establishments for literature, and for teaching the people,

though enormously expensive, must not be immediately broken up. I have even urged Zingani (who is a mighty favourite with all that class), to continue his superintendence of them; and after many grimaces, he has at length consented, merely stipulating, that he shall not have any political connexion with our ministry; a request which I granted most willingly, not having the smallest intention of ever applying to him for advice. He is a timid, harmless creature, who can never do any serious mischief, especially as he will still be narrowly watched. In short, I made an offer to Actemad of continuing at the head of the treasury, though I did not intend that he should be long there; but he answered in such a manner, as shewed the immediate necessity of putting him into close confinement. Thus, you will observe, that we shall be under the necessity of denying ourselves, for a short time, the

full enjoyment of our newly acquired power. Be not afraid; the time will come. Meanwhile, let us be ever on the watch against the formation of intrigues in favour of that party on whose ruin we have risen. Remember, there are thousands who view our power with envy, with bitter hostility. Their machinations will never sleep. Let our spies then be every-where; let suspicion be always enough to prompt the most summary and decisive measures. Why, even though there were no real danger, should we allow ourselves to be kept in apprehension? Above all, let a strict eye be maintained over the family at Chinan. To them I have always ascribed the honour of Corasmin's escape; and had it not been for an unfortunate partiality which the King entertains towards them, I should soon know how to act; but, owing to this circumstance, we should require some obvious proof, before

we could urge him to any extremity. Thus we have still difficulties, and measures to keep; but our affairs, I trust, will daily improve.

CORASMIN *to* ZINGANI.

I AM able to transmit a letter to you; and I do it with the most anxious care, that your safety may not be committed by receiving it. I am unable at present to say any thing of this strange and dreadful revolution, which has involved in utter confusion all our prospects. Well were it, should *we* prove to be the only sufferers; but, in considering how these men have raised themselves to

their present station, I can feel little confidence that the public good will be the prime mover of their actions. To a certain extent, however, they may permit what already exists to remain: something will surely be allowed to survive; and it must be our object to save every wreck. Could you find means to transmit into the ministerial offices the enclosed paper, carefully avoiding to give any clue which could lead to the suspicion of whence it came? It contains information and suggestions which are calculated, I think, to be useful. My object has been, to shew how their interest, their glory, is connected with institutions formed for the national good: thus, perhaps, they may be induced, where better motives fail, to consult it. One thing, my dear friend, I must particularly press upon you. Your functions, in superintending whatever contributes to the advancement of science and national in-

struction, have excited such a universal consent in your favour, that our new rulers would scarcely, I think, venture to remove you. I beseech you to remain. Save entire, if possible, this most precious part of our labours. Submit, for so great a good, to the painful situation of acting with men whom you do not love. From their political concerns you will be disposed, I presume, to stand aloof; but it is, of course, to be understood, that if you second not, you do nothing hostile to them. Honour demands this; and you make no considerable sacrifice in complying with its dictates. For the moment, therefore, our connexion as public men ceases; an unalterable private friendship alone unites us.

CORASMIN *to* SELMIDA.

YOUR letter has just reached me. What a tumult of passions has it excited! You tell me, that all my fairest hopes for my country are blasted; yet you assure me that you love me, that I still reign in your heart. I see now, that the tie which unites us is indeed never to be shaken by any earthly disaster. This consciousness, in spite as it were of myself, triumphs over every sorrow, and gilds all the prospects around me. Truly you make me in love with my ill fortune, since it draws from you a tenderness, which, when prosperous, I sighed for in vain. Yet regret still tempers my rap-

ture—that you should relinquish so brilliant a fortune; that your life, on my account alone, should be all turned to adversity! But I will not any longer urge arguments to which you so nobly refuse to listen. Since, then, you are thus fixed to renounce every thing for me—I know not what I say—your society at this moment would be more than ever precious. Yet I do not ask or wish it. No! better far that you should remain, till other circumstances shall favour our union. I content myself with that intercourse, though sad and distant, which is still permitted to us.

And now for a sadder subject, to which my heart must ever return. Your silence more than confirms the fatal surmises which reach me on every side. But how could you cherish so vain a hope, as that I should arm myself with indifference against such tidings? I know it well;

my wishes or sorrows are no longer of any avail ; yet my heart is still unable to detach itself from those whose happiness was so long the object of ceaseless meditation. And why should it? After having united myself with them so intimately ; after having presided so long over their destiny ; ought my affections to change with any change of circumstances? ought they not to survive every vicissitude? Can my heart, after diffusing itself so wide, insulate itself in its own cold existence? Should I seek to efface sentiments, which to cherish was my highest pride? Write, then, write me all. Nothing can be so dreadful as what I image to myself, when left in uncertainty. My mind, dwelling continually upon this subject, conjures up evils more terrible than any that can possibly exist. Use no reserve : I could least of all endure the being deceived upon

such a subject. I will suffer; yet I can bear it.

SELMIDA *to* CORASMIN.

YOUR letter was most agreeable to me, in assuring me of your safety; and I was gratified also by its changed tone, with regard to the relations which are to be between us. Entire confidence reigns henceforth on either side. Nothing can be more natural and just than the wish which you half express. Yes; I ought to be with you, and to share your fortune, whatever it may be. Be assured, such is the first wish of my heart. To share exile and want with you; to wan-

der with you the wide world over; to support you under the unmerited desertion of mankind;—this were to me the highest lot on earth, did not relentless fate interpose. But there are ties, dear and sacred, which bind me here. It is long since, by those who rule, our house have been marked out as victims. We are considered, not without reason, as deeply and secretly devoted to another cause. Some motive, which I do not fully comprehend, arrests their arm: the King, it is said, is reluctant, and requires undoubted proof to be produced; for such, we are informed, they are eagerly watching. My departure to join you would seem to afford full confirmation of their charge; and the consequences might be such as I tremble to think of. This danger impending over those whose safety is more to me than my own, forbids what would otherwise be so high and pleasing a duty. Our fates are thus

involved in an abyss of uncertainty ; but let us hope that, at some period, now wrapt in obscurity, happier circumstances may again unite us.

I comply with your request, of sending information, since you absolutely must have it. Yet why so eager? I asked too much, indeed, when I sought to withdraw you entirely from what passes here. But I beseech you to examine your own heart, whether this sorrow may not partly arise from other losses, besides those which your country has sustained? Beware, my Corasmin, of at all resembling that herd of statesmen, who have no existence independent of office and its short-lived consequence ; for whom, when that is withdrawn, the world and nature are all a blank. I mean not indeed to taunt you, but I wish you seriously to think, how superior is a soul such as yours to every outward appendage with which it can be invested.

Are you not still the same; still stored with all the most precious gifts of heaven; still as closely allied to the great fountain of good? Nothing, then, is changed, besides that vain pageantry, in which your pride surely never could be placed. However, I send you what you ask: The enclosed papers will fully explain all, and will spare me the hard task of writing it. I willingly withhold my comments. But with what interest must you read the fate of Alvanda! How dreadful a fate! merited, it is true, yet the worst of crimes in those who inflicted it. Guilt, so repented and so atoned, must call for forgiveness, even in those who witness and endure the misery it has caused.

CORASMIN *to* SELMIDA.

You may judge that it was the impulse of an ardent longing, which extorted from me any hint relative to your joining me. I really wished, and I thought it better that you should not; yet could I not defend myself from a latent hope, that these wishes might prove abortive. Your letter seals my lips. Far be it from me to combat reasons so just, so worthy of yourself. Yes; you must remain. I am alone, and content myself with hope.

I am now without the limits of Cashmire, an exile complete, but in safety. Seeing no hope, and no purpose that

could be answered by my remaining, I determined to yield to fate, and to remove. My passage over the mountains was made without interruption. It was productive of deep and various emotion. Chance ordered, that I should pass by the theatre of my first campaign ; that scene which must ever glow in my memory ; where I first acted in this great world ; where the rose of my fortune began to bloom. There all the pomp and tumult of war were first disclosed to me : there I beheld the barbaric ensigns flying before our eagles. The recollection of all that I had passed through, rose up in swift succession. I contrasted my rising fortunes with so mighty a fall. The evening, which was fast closing, threw over every well known object a mystic solemnity, in unison with my feelings. I sunk by degrees into a gentle melancholy, and lost in it the sense of all the evils which pressed upon me.

New objects, as I proceeded, changed the current of my thoughts. I began to ascend the barrier chain, which separates Cashmire from the expanse of northern Asia. Here the scene became gloomy and desolate; the traces of cultivation gradually disappeared, and nothing was seen but dark rocks piled upon rocks, with the mountain torrent glittering on their sides. No sound of man was heard; the cry of wild animals alone echoed through these vast solitudes. This deep silence of all surrounding objects was salutary to my soul. I beheld only nature, and that God of which she is the work; not man, by whose wrongs and guilt she is deformed. "Oh, thou great Being!" I exclaimed, "who remainest to me amid the wreck of every earthly hope; Power, mysterious indeed, yet ever great and good! with submission, with patience, in this hour of trial, would I wait thine issue." Thus, as I mounted into a higher

region, my thoughts ascended also. But, on reaching the highest pinnacle, I turned, and, beyond the world of mountains which lay beneath, I descried in the distance the glories of the Cashmirian plain. Under the veil of mist which shaded it, a thousand glowing tints from its harvests, its woods, its cities, mingled in brilliant confusion. Long I gazed upon objects, the view of which was to be henceforth denied to me. Then, recollections that were closely associated arose; —friends, from whom I was separated; a crowd of other regrets, which I shall not now name. This fair prospect then excited none but painful emotions; yet it attracted me, and it was not without effort that I was able to tear myself away. All disappeared, and I saw before me only the boundless extent of the Tartarian plain. To my former tumult of emotion, a death-like chill succeeded. I felt now all that was comfortless in

being an exile: I looked in vain for any object on which to fix my affections. Oh, Cashmire! Oh, my country lost to me! Oh, mountains, that encircle that blissful vale! I seemed to be plunging into a mighty void: These awful barriers were between me and the dearest half of my heart. Gradually, however, these gloomy impressions softened: I reflected, that the same Being who had given all that rendered my country precious, was still with me as much as ever; the traces of his goodness still surrounded me. My mind was soon occupied in collecting and securing the sources of comfort that remained. I established myself in a remote extremity of the state of Kilan, the government of which is friendly to me, though I do not choose to commit it by any open protection. My residence is in deep retirement, amid scenes of rude and pastoral nature, which, though different from those among which

I was wont to live, are not less pleasing. I am very well now, provided it were well with those whom I love.

Imagine not that I am offended with the warning you have given, even though accompanied with a hint, as if I stood in need of receiving it. In giving it, you have fulfilled a high office of friendship. I know much too well the weakness of the human heart, and how difficult it is to preserve pure the sources of our sorrow and joy, not to feel grateful for such advice. But, after the first loneliness of exile has subsided, I really do not feel that I suffer under the change in my mode of existence. The pleasures of private life, after so long a privation, are tasted with double relish. Extinguished tastes revive ; the worlds of nature open all their treasures. I find in abundance those hours of leisure and tranquillity, for which I was wont to sigh in vain. Could I believe, then, in

the happiness of this people, though Heaven had denied me the pleasure of being its instrument, most satisfied should I be. Nay, I have sometimes, amid the charms of this repose, reproached myself with the oblivion of objects which ought wholly to engross me. Let me add, however, that the tidings you have given, though bad, do not yet strike me with utter despair. I can no longer, indeed, cherish any hope from the intentions of those who rule : Public happiness, even were it to exist, would never be their work. But an edifice so far advanced cannot be at once overthrown. Springs set in motion will of themselves continue to operate, unless absolute violence be applied. Every thing which opposes present interest and inclination may be trampled on ; but the objects most essential to public felicity may escape unnoticed, because silent and deeply rooted. The plant may yet flourish,

though under a more unkindly heaven. In confirmation of this idea, I have the happiness to find, that they have not chosen, or ventured, to subvert the institutions formed for public instruction ; they have even asked Zingani to remain, though knowing him their enemy. This indicates a salutary awe of public opinion. The King himself, though misled, deceived as to me, cannot surely have become an utter stranger to those sentiments, with which he was once so deeply penetrated. With reference even to him, there will be measures to be kept. If the national welfare continues, I am satisfied, though only a distant spectator : I may enjoy the view, without the labour of producing it.

I need not say, with what emotion I learned the fate of Alvandā. Dismal as was the tale, it was most grateful to me to find him not guilty, as he once appeared. He redeems mankind in my eyes :

he was deceived, was wronged, but was not depraved. I forget his crimes in his fate ; I remember him only as he was in those days, when every thought, every joy, were interchanged ; when our very beings, as it were, were blended together. Oh ! that his life should have closed amid such horrors of guilt and remorse !

And now, farewell, my beloved friend. Alas ! two hearts so closely united, yet such a mighty barrier of distance and fate between us ! But let us enjoy to the utmost, this intercourse, which, though cold and distant, is still dear. Farewell.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

I SHALL be happy to hear how you proceed in your government. Meantime, I shall give you a faithful account of all that passes here, both in order to satisfy your curiosity, and because it may serve as a model of the manner in which you may conduct yourself. I have had much to do; the task was greatly more difficult than I was aware of: however, affairs are beginning to be brought into the state in which they ought to be. The first object was, to beat down the insolence of the people, which, through the silly indulgence of Corasmin, had risen beyond all bounds. It was time to put

an end to those absurd pretensions. They had worked themselves up to the idea, that every thing which the government did was to be done solely for their behoof; and there was not an individual so insignificant, who did not think himself entitled to give his opinion on the subject. I was determined, that they should learn from me a very different lesson: silence and implicit obedience were to be now their portion. You will easily suppose, that this change was not effected without some murmuring; but the ridiculous circumstance is, that the King, whose very business I was doing, proved always the first obstacle in my way. Although satisfied, or very nearly so, that Corasmin was a traitor, and an enemy to his crown, the maxims of that minister are still uppermost in his mind. I can scarcely preserve the necessary patience, in talking upon these subjects. "Sire," say I, "must your Majesty re-

nounce all the prerogatives of your high birth, all the pleasures of unbounded wealth? must you become the slave of those who are bound to obey you?" "They think themselves entitled to these privileges." "Never allow them to think so. If they are once permitted to encroach, their insolence will soon know no bounds. Thus it was that Corasmin acted; and it was entirely through his connivance that our affairs have been brought into their present situation. He encouraged the people to every sort of insubordination and arrogance. No doubt he had his views. He took care to insinuate, that your Majesty was, at best, a mere passing instrument, often an obstacle in his way. Happily, however, the penetration of your Majesty detected all his arts; you saved from him yourself and your kingdom." Thus I carry my point. But it is always a sad and reluctant consent that I extort; he does not

go cheerfully along with us. Even the assembly of the people, that scourge of the throne, would have continued to meet, had his inclination been consulted. I was firmly determined, however, that no such event should take place. I knew that the deputies would have been, to a man, the adherents of my rival: they would have moved heaven and earth to restore him; they would have demanded inquiry; and who knows what might have been the result? Besides, in the large additional contributions which it is absolutely necessary that we should require from the nation, this assembly would have expected, that its consent should first be obtained; and we should have waited some time, I presume, before they would have vouchsafed it. From this time, therefore, its meetings have ceased. It followed, of course, that the people, who had learned a bad lesson from my predecessor, should betray symptoms of

discontent. I had foreseen this, and secured against it. The nobility were, by this time, attached to me, because I restored to them all that power over their dependants, of which Corasmin had tyrannically deprived them. They received full permission to act as they pleased, provided they should not attempt to obstruct our operations. The merchants, again, were not much satisfied, that their manufactures should be rivalled by those of other countries, and that there were no means of procuring a sale for their own, unless by making them better. I made regulations, which secured them a market upon easier terms. Meanwhile, gifts of considerable magnitude, and promises to triple their amount, secured to me most of the men of greatest influence in the kingdom. I was therefore prepared to meet the tide of hostility, which set in against us from every quarter. I resolved to take vigo-

rous measures, which might not only secure our present aim, but might give salutary lessons of future submission. A petition was presented; and such a petition! it could not positively have been worse, had it been dictated by Corasmin himself. It was absolutely necessary to teach them, that such a step was not to be ventured upon with impunity. Not only was this production rejected, in a manner which did not encourage its repetition; but care was used, that every person who had taken the lead in framing it, should reap the fruits of his insolence. Probably there is not one of them, who does not by this time repent that he had any share in the transaction. Meantime, we were assailed from other quarters. A paper was circulated, teeming with all the effrontery which had grown up, and been fostered, under the reign of my predecessor; for it was his maxim, that

every hair-brained speculator should be allowed to publish any thing he pleased, provided it did not amount to absolute treason. Nay, I have known instances, in which he noticed and promoted men, merely because they had exposed the folly of his own measures ; and he had the weakness to confess, that they were in the right. Affairs were somewhat changed now : it was time to shew that I was not to be so dealt with. Orders were immediately issued for the apprehension of the writer of this discussion, and of all concerned in circulating and spreading it. I threw them into confinement, from which they will not soon be liberated. This prompt measure stopped the torrent that was preparing to issue forth. The people saw, that we were not men to be trifled with ; and that, if they exercised their wits against us, it was at their peril. Fortunately, the tribunals have now been brought

quite into a proper state. All the old men have been removed, without any regard to the idle promises which Corasmin had given, of continuing their places for life. He had no title to throw away so important a privilege; and if the King was weak enough to consent, it is high time now that he should resume what he lost. We are now secure, that every thing will be decided in the manner most conducive to the interests of his Majesty, and to our own views. Every hope which the evil-disposed could draw from that quarter, is at an end.

Thus you see the course which I have followed, and successfully; for, having the power in my hands, I have forced every thing to give way. Follow my example, exert your power vigorously, shew no indulgence to the factious; and above all, make copious remittances. You cannot conceive the want of funds

under which we labour. The additional contributions which I forced the nation to make, however large, threaten to prove insufficient. The King, you will observe, must be kept constantly amused; he must be surrounded with all the means of enjoyment, of splendour: Should we leave him leisure to think too seriously, our empire might totter. No one can be more skilful than Dalinda, in leading him through this path of enchantment. She creates pleasures without end; but, unfortunately, she never considers how much they may cost. Her own vanity is to be gratified, and it rises continually higher and higher: There is nothing brilliant here, which she does not aspire to eclipse: the mere lavishing of money seems to constitute her delight. Judge, amid the pressure of innumerable demands; amid the care which it is necessary to take of ourselves, and of our friends and supporters, whe-

ther our coffers are likely to overflow ! I do not mean to insinuate, that you should not attend to yourself ; but you will only see, how grateful will always be the arrival of money ; and how necessary it is, to overlook no means by which it can be collected.

By the way, I send you the copy of a very odd paper, which has been transmitted to us, pretending to give information and advice, as to the manner in which public affairs should be managed. I shall know tolerably well, I believe, how to proceed, without the aid of this personage. The difficulty was, to get into this situation, not to conduct ourselves when there. I wish we knew who this officious person is. We should give him a lesson, as to being so forward with his maxims. And such maxims too ! Had not the thing been impossible, I should have considered it as certain, that they came from Corasmin himself.

From the Same to the Same.

I GAVE you, in my last, pretty strong hints, that our supplies were not superabundant. I hoped that time and vigorous remedies would have placed them in a more flourishing state; but far otherwise. Harassed by the incessant applications of Dalinda, I presented her with a very large sum, which, I imagined, for some weeks at least, must satisfy her craving. In two days, however, comes another peremptory and enormous demand. I could not forbear making some attempt to parry this blow. I wrote: "Madam,—Be assured it shall ever be my first happiness to minister to your plea-

tures, and those of your illustrious lover. The moment that I had the honour of receiving your letter, I hurried to the treasurer, and asked the money ; but he declared, that his funds were in such an exhausted state, as rendered it absolutely impossible to answer the demand immediately. In a very few days, however, you may depend upon it ; and I hope, as something probably remains of your last supply, that the delay will not be productive of any serious inconvenience." The answer was very brief: " I should like to know what your treasurer has to do, or what use there is for him, unless to supply money when wanted. If he cannot do his business, why is he continued a moment longer in office ?" I lost no time in regaling him with this letter, which caused certainly some rueful meditations. The question was, what could be done ? I cast my eye first on the literary institutions, which absorb

large sums, and are under the management of a person certainly hostile to us. But when I proposed this matter to the King, he became very thoughtful; and I judged it expedient not to push the matter any farther. Very seasonably, however, came a proposal to pay a large sum, for the exclusive privilege of supplying the city with wood. The same had been made to my predecessor, who had peremptorily rejected it; but his conduct is no precedent for mine. Seeing, therefore, nothing better that could be done, I accepted the money, supplied Dalinda, and deposited the rest in the treasury. This proved a species of mine:—offers were multiplied; and we were soon placed beyond the reach of immediate want. These proceedings may serve as a hint for you; and you know, if the person so favoured insist upon giving us a private acknowledg-

ment of our friendship, there is no absolute necessity for rejecting it.

P. S.—Another demand from Dalinda. All the gold of India would not satisfy that woman! Yet satisfied she must be. Therefore, Kavidi, collect, extort, fine, stop at nothing, so you can raise money; and, when raised, remit it, I beseech you, as expeditiously as possible.

From the Same to the Same.

AFTER the resource which I mentioned to you in my last was exhausted, we again relapsed into all our former difficulties. Dalinda continues still her train

of expense: Nothing magnificent appears, which she does not insist upon being enabled to surpass. I imagined, that as the season drew to a close, there would be some suspension of her gaieties. Just, however, as I was beginning to rest secure, I was favoured with the following epistle.—“ I write to say, that either I must quit my post, or be furnished with some decent means of supporting it. The small supplies which I have been accustomed to receive, seem now entirely stopped. The consequence is plain. At the promenade of to-day, the Princess Dilleki paraded with twenty attendants, while poor I could muster only fifteen. Again, last night’s ball at ———, was undoubtedly the most brilliant given this season; far above any thing that I could pretend to. I am eclipsed on all hands: I, that ought to be at the fountain of splendour, to support the dignity of majesty.—But indeed

how can I? Gold is a thing I never see; it is a month since I received a rupee. (Five successive sums has she received during that period, but I dare not remind her of it). I beseech you, do not harass me with the old story of the money not being to be had. What! when it is lavished on so many useless expenses! I could shew a thousand things that might be saved, without trenching on my little allowance—really not enough to support what is expected of one in my situation. What is the use, pray, of these immense sums thrown away upon a band of pedants, who strut about as if they were the first men in the kingdom; and Zingani, your mortal enemy, at their head? The sum annually thrown away upon these drones would furnish out an entertainment, such as I might give without blushing. I beseech you to find me money in some mode or other. And do not place all to the ac-

count of my little vanity : it is necessary for keeping my place, for maintaining my empire and yours. The King must be amused, must be dazzled with novelty, otherwise he may soon give us all the slip. You see how ill satisfied he often is with your plans and reasons ; how very necessary I am. If you will undertake to amuse him yourself, for a short interval, you will soon find how difficult the task is. New pleasures must daily be contrived to drown reflection. And, to tell the truth, I too have something to drown ; for, amid all the lustre of this situation, it is impossible always to forget how dear I bought it. But it were too late certainly to think of this."

Upon first reading this letter I began to entertain serious thoughts of ridding myself of this coadjutor, which I could do ; but, on considering seriously what she herself said, and the truth of which it is impossible to contest, there appear-

ed no safety in this course. It is a miserable thing, but we actually do depend upon her; and she feels it. It was necessary, therefore, to consider how she might be supplied. It happened that there actually was a sum in the treasury; but unhappily, I had been violently urged by the persons who manage this great canal, which is forming across the kingdom. They declared, that a very little would now complete it, and, without that, all hitherto done was of no avail. I shall not be accused of being too much devoted to popular clamour, yet it had really been desirable to have completed this undertaking. The nation expected it; they had formed extravagant expectations of the benefits which were to result from it; and it might seem hard, when they were paying so much more, that every thing should cease to be done for them. The question arose, where else the money could be had? and;

after due consideration, this appeared unanswerable. That affair must be suspended; it can be taken at our leisure: our present wants are too urgent. Even the relief, however, which this afforded proved insufficient. It was soon necessary to think of some other expedient; and I was forced to take into consideration the one which Dalinda herself had suggested. You know the reasons which made me rather wish to spare it, if possible. But the fact is, we have no money to spend on any such object. It cannot be wanted from the important concerns of the government. If the people will learn to read and write, they must find teachers for themselves; we are not bound to furnish them. And, after all, they will, if I mistake not, make as quiet subjects, though they should not be so very learned. Down, then, must go academy, academicians and all. You cannot conceive, however, the difficulty which

I encountered with the King. He adhered to this point with extreme pertinacity: Corasmin had quite intoxicated his imagination on the subject. I am afraid it has not advanced us in his good opinion. Had any other means occurred to me of attaining our object, I should actually have drawn back. But, no! Dalinda must have her ball, otherwise it had been all over with us.

From the Same to the Same.

THE measures which I mentioned in my last, have, in some degree, relieved our present embarrassment, and will, I hope, keep us afloat till the new contributions

begin to arrive. Could you believe it; Zingani has dared to address to me a letter replete with the most intolerable insolence; because, forsooth, it has been found expedient to abolish these institutions, at the head of which we permitted him to continue. He now openly avows, what we always suspected, his entire devotion to the maxims of the exiled minister: he reprobates the whole system upon which we have acted; and plainly intimates, that he hates us as cordially as if, instead of sparing and employing him, we had sent him into banishment along with his coadjutor. I considered him as a quiet, harmless, dreaming creature, who, so long as he was not molested, would never occasion the smallest uneasiness. Now that he has so much disappointed us, it is time to let him feel that such conduct is not to be held with impunity. The prison is open for him;

too happy that we push no farther our just resentment.

The news that I have just received are somewhat good. Corasmin, there is every reason to believe, lurks in an extremity of the state of Kilan. Considering the relative strength of that nation and ours, I scarcely apprehend that they will hesitate to deliver him up, however well affected I know them to be towards him. A messenger has been already dispatched; threats and promises will be equally lavished. What a relief were it did we succeed! for, while he breathes, there is still a worm which corrodes the vitals of our prosperity. But I entertain sanguine hopes that we may now be delivered from him.

SELMIDA *to* CORASMIN.

You have insisted, that I should write all without reserve. The time is now come when I must fulfil this trust. With despair I give you the mortal blow. Yes, all that you left here is now a wreck. Be assured, I feel along with you; yet, oh! let me beseech you to indulge no longer these vain expectations; do not prepare for yourself this ever renewed disappointment. You must blunt suffering by extinguishing hope: Be assured there is none for you. It is not only from what I see passing before me:—Kavidi comes sometimes to this house; I see him, I hear him; therefore I know there

is nothing to hope. You have then no relief, but wholly to turn your views in another direction. Is there nothing in nature, nothing in the works of God, which can afford you consolation? And, oh! Corasmin, since you drive me to say it, am I nothing to you? Why should you waste all the capacities of that great soul in unavailing sorrow? Think in whose hands you leave their fate, and by whom those things are permitted; and own, that it were impious to repine, even under the greatest of seeming evils.

ZINGANI to CORASMIN.

I HAVE an opportunity of transmitting a letter to you, and there is nothing now to bar our intercourse. You, doubtless, have already heard of the subversion of all those institutions, over which I still reluctantly presided. The event was sad; yet having been by me long anticipated, the edge of regret was blunted. Personally, the change is blessed. Now I am again myself, again united with you in prison and in exile; no longer bound by those detested ties. For the situation in which I then stood, even the gloom of these prison walls is a grateful exchange. We may now, so far as it is

permitted by the duty of not wantonly sacrificing ourselves, enjoy an intercourse, though rare and distant, which will be my only consolation, in circumstances thus hopeless both for myself and for my country.

CORASMIN to SELMIDA.

You have done well to conceal nothing from me. Yes, I now see it is mercy. There is nothing left for me indeed, but to renounce all hope. Every transient glimmering which has hitherto mocked my eyes, has been only the prelude to new and more bitter disappointment. What an impious avidity!

this surely might have been spared. But I must fortify myself to see calamity following upon calamity, without hope of remission. Of all that was reared with so much care, not a wreck will be suffered to remain. To take a wide survey of human things; to view those grand processes, by which good arises from apparent evil; this is now my proper consolation. These thoughts, which were my instruction in prosperity, afford relief in adversity: these support me under the load of suffering which weighs upon mankind. There is a Power above, by whom all these things are seen and permitted: By him they are arranged, to produce in the end the happiest result. These men are his instruments, as much as those who make the nearest approach to his own nature. This is true: yet how high has faith to soar, ere it reaches to such a height!

My attention has, for the moment, been distracted by necessary thoughts about myself. Notice reached me, that the place of my retreat was no longer a secret from the Cashmirian government. I was at once aware, that every extremity would be resorted to, in order to obtain possession of my person. The state of Kilan has been the faithful ally of Cashmire; to myself most friendly. I had even assurances from persons, to whom its disposition was known, that a stand would be made, and that I would be protected. I was determined, however, that the state should not be so committed on my account. This to avoid, I had lived in the most humble privacy; and now that I could remain no longer without danger to them, I announced my determination to go instantly. Fear not; shelter will not be wanting: Asia will still afford me a refuge within her vast deserts. My situation will not be

materially worse; and the exertions necessary to change it will distract me from more painful thoughts. But on your account I am anxious. You are described to me as pale and sad; that your wonted gaiety animates you no longer. You languish, and I am the cause. Doubtless it was an inauspicious tie, which attached your fate so closely to mine. Yet, if you *will* preserve it unbroken, suffer it not, I beseech you, to press so heavy. Open to yourself all the pleasures which your situation, your connexions offer; and let them not be poisoned by the thought of me. Be assured, I have a retreat in view, where I shall be in perfect safety. It is amid the mountains of Tibet, by the side of a small lake, abounding, as it is described to me, with the wild beauties of nature. From thence I hope that a regular correspondence may soon be re-established between us. Never doubt, in short, that all the honour-

able means of self-preservation which Heaven may place in my hands, will be diligently employed.

SELMIDA *to* CORASMIN.

I now write, in the confidence that my letter will reach you. Truly, I do not, more than yourself, consider this necessity as very hard, of going into a more distant and cheerless exile. You bear with you, I trust, a mind everywhere sufficient for itself. The regrets and wishes of mankind go with you; you are invoked by the prayers of a suffering world. Though the Sovereign whom you have illustrated, whom you

have saved, lifts his deluded hand against you; though he transfers his favour to objects so unworthy; how enviable is your lot, compared to that in which they glitter! But who has told you that I pine, that I am unhappy? It is not so. My days pass on smoothly, in occupations which I have chosen for myself, and have always delighted in: I enjoy as much as ever all my wonted pleasures: My parents are well, and love me as tenderly as ever. I have then no source of uneasiness, unless from yourself; and pray, my good friend, does it become *you* to think this so very grievous?—Have you so soon forgotten that modesty, which, you may remember, formed your chief recommendation. I can then, you see, be gay as formerly. And, seriously, as the present is tolerable, the future appears to me in far brighter colours than you seem to imagine. Something whispers me, that I am yet destined to

be the bride of Corasmin; that I will see you again where you ought ever to have been; that my suffering country will revive once more under your auspices. Hope still lives in my breast, even under the cloud of fate that is thickening around. The causes which keep us separated, exist still in their full strength. But, in heart, in thought, you have me as a companion of all your wanderings. That spot, however bleak and distant, appears to me as my home. Forgetful of all that separates us, I roam with you over Scythian wilds. Let us then enjoy to the full that intercourse which is permitted to us, and wait patiently for that happier lot, which is, I trust, in reserve.

SELMIDA to HINDALI.

You know the tidings which I have received of Corasmin : I confess, they affect me most painfully. To him, indeed, engrossed by other thoughts and sorrows, this change of situation will be almost unfelt. But I feel now the most extreme longing, that I were with him, and shared his adversity. When the storm is beating so hard, how cruel for me to be absent ! I am rolling in ease and luxury, while he is driven from realm to realm, and finds scarcely a spot where to rest his foot. Weak as I am, I would still be something on which to lean ; to console in some measure that great soul, under the woes

of humanity, which weigh so heavy on him. Meantime, some one has told him that I suffer, that my gaiety has vanished. This grieves me. So heavily loaded already, he ought not to have my sorrows also to bear: My lot should seem to smile on him. I entreat, therefore, that you will use your influence, with any one whom you may understand to communicate with him, that they do not give any such tidings.

You wished to know my intention, as to the court entertainment which was given last night. I was there. While resigning so much, I was not to scruple at this smaller sacrifice. With a sad heart and a gay countenance, I went to that place of punishment; since there shine those whom it is most deadly to me to behold. Oh! great, mysterious power, who presidest over mortal destiny, in what an awful mystery are thy counsels wrapt! Kavidî blazes in this

splendour, while *he*, the ornament and the pride of human nature, is left almost without a roof to shelter him. Quell, oh! quell these rising murmurs, which I can so hardly suppress; enable me to see good even in this dreadful evil! But, oh! to a short-sighted mortal, how hard is the task!

'This is a very solemn letter, not such as you were wont to receive from Selmida; but I can only hope, that my next may assume somewhat of a gayer character.

CORASMIN *to* SELMIDA.

I HAVE reached my destination, and find no cause to fear for my safety. Nor

is the situation inhospitable, or such as an exile may not well endure. No letter of yours has yet reached me ; but I have received accounts from other quarters, which caused in me much emotion. I learn, what indeed I had partly understood from yourself, that Kavidi visits frequently at Chinar. I am also told, that he is graciously received. His intention is believed to be that of forming an alliance with the family : to this, it is believed, no aversion is felt, and that vows, now repented of, are the sole bar. You doubtless remember, it was not at my urgency that you renewed those vows, after fortune had changed : I gave a sufficient pledge, that if you wished to liberate yourself, a word would have been sufficient. Kavidi was not precisely the successor whom I could have expected or desired. But most certainly, if you feel the smallest inclination towards such an object, you have only to express it,

in order to be relieved at once from every engagement by which it could be obstructed. Write me, I beseech you, at once, and explicitly, that my mind may no longer be racked by its present uncertainty.

SELMIDA *to* CORASMIN.

I sit down to answer your letter without a moment's delay. The offer you make, really is handsome; and I cannot see the smallest objection to my at once accepting it. I shall thus be established much more comfortably and agreeably, and more to the general satisfaction of my friends. I shall be placed,

too, in the very situation which I had reason to expect ; and it is surely one somewhat hard to relinquish. As for Kavidi, if he has not always guided himself by the strictest rules of moral right, what statesman was ever expected to do so ? Some sacrifice must absolutely be made for objects so valuable as place and power. He may make a very good husband notwithstanding ; and it were very silly in me to give way to such chimerical scruples. I was just contriving how best to open the affair to you, but this voluntary offer relieves me from all embarrassment. Truly you have acted a handsome part, and deserve my gratitude.—

Oh, Corasmin ! and could you then admit into your mind the idea of my becoming Kavidi's ?—that your Selmida should have borne that detested name ? Could you ever do me so cruel a wrong ? Has your soul thus sunk under misfor-

tune? Such a charge, too! I cannot speak or think of it: I will not humble myself so far as to deny it. Oh! had you been where you once were, and had dared,—but, alas! you have excuses to plead that are but too unanswerable. Pride has no place for an exiled, a suffering lover. I freely, then, and fully forgive you; I will never remember that such a letter has reached me. On your part, I trust, the subject will not be renewed, otherwise I shall certainly imagine that some Tartar nymph has caught you; that you wish only to shake off your Selmidā.

And yet it is true indeed, strange as it may seem, that Kavidi is our frequent visitor. I know not his motive; I can conceive none: I am too happy, when he disappears, to escape the necessity of thinking of him, ever to rack myself with conjectures. Doubtless, some selfish motive; some increase of conse-

quence, perhaps, though surely very small, which he may expect to derive from it. As to any thing connected with your horrible suspicion, there cannot be the smallest foundation for that. But, since he does come, you will easily conceive the necessity that there should be nothing in my deportment to inflame his terrible anger. All the great sacrifice I am making would then be in vain. It is my study not to offend; I must even labour to assume an air of complacency. The persecution will, I hope, soon cease; for he cannot surely continue to find pleasure in visiting a house, where he assuredly knows the utter detestation in which he is held.

HINDALI to SELMIDA.

A most respectable lady, one advanced in years, a common friend, and whose name you may probably guess, insists upon my writing, and making you a serious remonstrance. I, who know your obstinacy upon certain points, am not very sanguine ; however, I shall state to you the grounds of our conference. We both consider it evident, that you have captivated this man, who holds the second place in the administration of Cashmire. Now, she insists that a serious remonstrance shall be made to you upon the step which you are to take in this emergency. She does not see how you

can prudently decline so advantageous a proposal. "What is Corasmin now? what have you to expect from that quarter? No one, so far as I understand, knows well what is become of him; and, at all events, he can never now be a match for you. You are a fortunate girl, to get another offer nearly as good, and which it would be the height of folly in you to think of refusing." These are the express words, which, at particular request, I faithfully deliver. I confess myself to have had too much experience of your pertinacity, to entertain full confidence that these arguments will make the expected impression. But really, my Selmida, I must entreat you, in no case, to think of exiling yourself with Corasmin, till his fortunes be somewhat more propitious. You, cherished by parental fondness, and accustomed to all the comforts which life can afford, know not indeed what it is to wander the world without

a home. His firmer character, enured to hardship, may endure adversities, under which a tenderer nature would sink. Since, then, it must be so, and since I do not very ardently long to see you wife to one of our present rulers, reserve yourself for him. It cannot be always as now ; and time, I trust, will bring round the moment when the present obstacles will exist no longer. **But** do not leave us all ; do not leave all the enjoyments of life, on account of ties which now scarcely exist ; which he himself, sensible of the power of circumstances, has proposed spontaneously and finally to renounce.

SELMIDA *to* HINDALI.

OH! you cruel friend, how could you harass me with this merciless letter? You add a new alarm to those which formerly racked me. What, indeed? oh! what can be the motive, which brings Kavidi to this devoted house? Why am I compelled to look at and speak to him, and cannot deliver myself from so odious a sight? True it is, that often he harasses me with conversation, to which hard necessity compels me to answer, even with complacency; that I sometimes meet, fixed upon me, that eye, the deep cunning of which is so easily discerned; that sometimes his malignity

seeks to dress itself in smiles. I shudder to think, how difficult it is to find any solution for these things, except your dreadful one. But no, no! it never can be. I feel within myself the full evidence of it. To produce attachment, there must always be some degree, some chance of reciprocity; there must not be what I feel towards him. Surely there is an antipathy rooted in our very nature. And, oh! if he ever wished me to endure the sight of him, he would not speak as he does of Corasmin. He pretends to despise, to pity him;—a wretch, unworthy to breathe the same air. I should disbelieve my very senses, did they tell me that I am viewed by *him* with the eye of partiality. Let me banish from my mind, at once, and for ever, the odious thought.

And now you will expect, that I should say something to the advice with which you favour me at the end of your letter.

You are anxious to separate me from Corasmin, while an exile, while persecuted by fortune. It is needless to contend with you very earnestly. You know well the strength of the fetters by which I am chained; my prospects, instead of brightening, become every day more hopeless. But were these barriers removed, not a moment should I hesitate. I would fly to my husband; for such he is to me, as sacredly as if worlds had been witness to the vow. Where he is, think you that I would shrink from being? Is there any hardship which would be felt, he sharing it? Think not that I speak a mere vain and boasting language. I have carefully estimated the pleasures on which depends the enjoyment of life: I have given their due weight to those which are to be purchased by wealth. Upon this estimate I have founded the alacrity, with which, did circumstances permit, I should now prepare to quit them. There

are other ties far stronger; yet even these would not detain me. But vain, alas! are all these thoughts: my wishes to depart are vain; and I have only to study patient submission to the necessity which exists, of remaining where I now am.

KAVIDI *to* BOSTANGA.

I ENTER fully into the motives which make you wish, that I should now return to my government. The mere expression of your wish, indeed, would alone be sufficient. I hope, however, I do not presume too much in mentioning, that there is one little matter, which would make it

desirable for me to delay a very short time longer.

Maled, you know, has a daughter : I need not describe her ; you know her perfectly, as well as the whole of that family. Do you know, I have thoughts of marrying that girl ! Beyond all question this project will startle you. But, though I certainly have taken a fancy for her, do not imagine that this would induce me to take any step which could be considered as a political error. No one can be better aware than myself, of the light in which we and our cause have long been regarded by that family : I know well, also, the prospects which had opened to the young lady, under the past order of things ; and am perfectly convinced, that they have hitherto ranked among our most determined and inveterate enemies. But since certain circumstances render it not safe or possible to make them feel the effects of our re-

sentment, may it not be more advisable to gain them over, by holding out advantages nearly as brilliant as those which have been snatched from them? Besides, let me tell you, I have deeper views. It has been observed, on different occasions, that the King has shewn a degree of favour, a little *penchant* for this young lady; and, when circumstances shall bring them oftener together, who knows what may happen. We might then be freed from this insolent, troublesome creature, on whom we at present depend. A due consideration of these circumstances will, I think, make you view the subject in a light somewhat different from what it may at first appear.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

YOUR proposal did certainly at first surprise me very much ; nevertheless, I have seriously and attentively considered it. I feel no inclination to put any restraint on your inclinations ; and the hint which you give, at the end of your letter, might certainly afford an opening for a very satisfactory arrangement. At the same time, the measure appears to me exceedingly delicate, and such as would require to be managed with the utmost circumspection. The great danger arises from Dalinda, who must, in every view, be indignant at this connection ; and can scarcely consider it other-

wise than as a personal insult. Remember, that we have not yet got rid of her, and that her resentment might be very serious. If you can find any means of overcoming completely this difficulty, I consent; but not otherwise:—I cannot agree to risk any thing.

KAVIDI *to* BOSTANGA.

I ACCEPT your condition, and entirely approve of your caution. You certainly have pointed out the true difficulty of the affair. I trust, however, that my address will prove sufficient to obviate it, and to procure the full consent of Dalinda. At all events, you may assure

yourself, that our cause will not be committed by any of my proceedings.

KAVIDI *to* DALINDA.

My dear Madam,—I have to mention to you a project, upon which you are so excellently qualified to advise, that I can do nothing better than submit myself implicitly to your direction. You will be surprised to learn, that I have formed the idea of marrying the daughter of Maled; the very person, who, it is believed, had once destined herself to be the wife of Corasmin. I care very little for the girl, who certainly is as stiff, dull, precise a creature, as can well be ima-

gined. Yet the idea pleases me in several respects: It would complete the mortification of our rival, to see himself supplanted, not only in the principal point, but in another which he probably set some value upon. Besides, there are political motives of some importance; our interest is concerned. The King, unaccountably, has a sort of favour for this family, which makes it impossible to proceed to any extremity against them. I am in continual dread of some successful machinations against us from that quarter. It would therefore be a measure of extreme prudence, to secure ourselves against them by a bribe, such as will attach them to our interest. These, I assure you, Madam, are the only motives which have made me think of a step, which would otherwise never have occurred to me. Never shall I think of it without the sanction of your superior judgment: I have not taken, and will.

not take a single step, till I have heard your sentiments.

DALINDA *to* KAVIDI.

I DECLARE, I never in my life was so astonished as by the perusal of your letter! It is really no business of mine to say whom you shall or shall not marry; but that you should ever have fixed your eyes on such a personage, is to me ground of utter amazement. I say nothing, as to how far she appears to me worthy of the honour intended for her, since upon that point we seem pretty much agreed; and you urge merely motives of prudence, which do not appear

to me at all cogent. But, I confess, I think the mere circumstance of the manner in which she has chosen to conduct herself towards me, might have had some weight with you. She, forsooth, would not follow the example of persons of much higher distinction, who had courted my acquaintance : she would keep herself pure and immaculate from all communication with me ; for no other reason, I verily believe, than that I was, where she was dying herself to be. I repeat it, I take no concern whom you marry ; but I cannot in conscience say any thing in favour of the person on whom your choice appears to be fixed.

KAVIDI *to* DALINDA.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your letter: I am mortified to the last degree, that you should ever have supposed it possible for me to think of forming such a connexion without your entire approbation. I declare, that you do really wrong me greatly, in ever entertaining such an idea. As to the young lady's conduct towards you, it so happened by my absence from the capital, that I never learned it: never could I of myself have conceived any thing so absurd. It does appear, however, that she and her family have been guilty of this folly; and that a few silly and dis-

contented persons have been encouraged by their example to act a similar part. Now, what occurs to me is this. The moment that she should become my wife, all such proceedings would, of course, be at an end. She would feel the necessity of paying to you all the respect that was due, and, if it were a mortification, she should experience it to the full. This would break, I think, the party of those who, from mere obstinacy, persist in this ridiculous conduct: it would establish you fully in all the court circles. This positively appears to me the most agreeable circumstance attending the connexion.—By the bye, my dear Madam, a person who, I think, understands such things, has given me the enclosed plan of a *fete*, which, it appears, might form a brilliant commencement to the approaching season. To your refined taste improvements will no doubt suggest themselves; but there seems here a good

foundation. Now, we happen to have at present in the treasury a pretty large sum, which should be entirely at your command; and by which the whole might be carried on in the most brilliant manner. I request permission, Madam, instantly to transmit it to you.

DALINDA *to* KAVIDI.

WELL, I have received your letter. I can assure you, had I been in your situation, I should have made quite a different choice. However, since you are so bent upon it, and seem anxious to make the arrangement agreeable to me, I should be sorry to make myself the only ob-

stacle to your felicity. Marry her, then, I beseech you. But are you sure, my good Sir, that all things be smooth before you? It is well known, that her views were once quite different; and rumour states that they have sustained no alteration. Certainly, some who have seen you together report to me, that the looks she cast upon you were not exactly those of a love-sick maiden. However, that is your own affair; you have my consent to proceed.—You may send me the money.

KAVIDI *to* DALINDA.

YOUR letter has gratified me most highly. The conclusion you have come

to is such as I fully anticipated from your good sense, after a moment's consideration. As to the doubt you express, my dear Madam, leave that to me. I entreat you to make yourself perfectly easy upon that head. I am not a man, I trust, to have any such danger to apprehend. If she ever had any inclination towards the person you allude to, more brilliant qualities, or at least fortune, may well be supposed to have effaced this recollection. I may say, perhaps, without vanity, that there could now be little room for hesitation. Besides, the girl evidently studies to make herself agreeable; and if her eye is sometimes cast coldly, even sternly upon me, this is merely some remnant of female pride. These pretty prudish airs are put on only to give a zest to her attractions. Since you permit me then, Madam, I hope soon to have an easy triumph to announce to you.

SELMIDA *to* HINDALI.

Yes, my friend, your dismal conjecture was indeed the truth. Kavidî has dared—and I was compelled to listen; and no contempt, save what my eyes could not be withheld from speaking, was suffered to escape. I could not profess esteem; sacred truth forbade: I could not perhaps disguise the consternation with which I was struck; yet the dread impressed upon me, by knowing his power over those who are dearest to me, saved me, I trust, from every word that could justly offend. Good God! to think that, after loving Corasmin, I could ever love *him*! I cannot express the state into

which this odious suit has thrown me. What a humiliation in the idea, of having had any thing in me that could please Kavidi! Surely there could be no sympathy, nothing congenial between us. Anxious, indeed, were my cares to sooth his hatred against this family; but never could I dream of such a result. 'Tis over; and my rejection, however softened, was pointed and decisive. He will not, I think, renew the subject. I shall be saved from the misery of seeing him, and of listening to his conversation with forced complacency. My mind is all tumult and fear, as to what he may do; but there is no effort I can make to avert it. The same power which has hitherto preserved us, amid perils so great, will, I trust, still interpose.

KAVIDI *to* MALED.

I KNOW not if your daughter has mentioned to you a circumstance, which my subsequent visits must have led you to anticipate. The truth is, that after some consideration, I had determined to make her an offer of my hand. I trust I shall not be accused of vanity in saying, that this is somewhat above what most young ladies could aspire to ; that there are very few indeed, who might not have been flattered by such a proposal. Instead, however, of receiving it in the manner which perhaps it merited, she dares to insult me by a positive rejection. Now, Sir, present circumstances are such as to render

it necessary that I should deal with you very plainly. The rejection of this offer can be accounted for on no possible supposition, except one, of a nature the most culpable, and most offensive to his Majesty. The loyalty of your house stands impeached; and it has not been without difficulty that I have hitherto prevented any measures from being taken against it. Now, how could it be better justified, than by accepting an offer, which, to every one else, must appear so desirable? To conclude: This is a point on which I am resolved; and should your daughter, from mere obstinacy, refuse her consent, there are other means. Remember, Sir, that I am not one to whom *Nay* is easily said. I enjoy the confidence of the King; and it were hard, indeed, should I derive no benefit from such a privilege. This match has met his full approbation; he has signified his pleasure that it should take place. I

merely drop these as hints; however, let me not conceal from you, that on your determination the safety of yourself, and of all your house, is very deeply involved.

SELMIDA *to* HINDALI.

I AM in an abyss the most dreadful in which any mortal was ever plunged! Through me, destruction threatens those to whom I am indebted for more than life. Such are the menaces of this letter, which my father in vain attempted to conceal from me. Oh, agonizing thought! it is in my power to save them! Father! mother!—But, oh, no!—Earth

and Heaven forbid it! Had it been only to renounce for another him to whom I have devoted myself, methinks, perhaps I might have made the dreadful sacrifice: but for guilt,—proud and triumphant guilt;—there is not in nature so dreadful a bond of separation, as between me and him: no fate, no horror, can ever unite us. That union is not within the round of possible things. Therefore, whatever befall, it is fate, not I, that does it. Am I then to give them up to destruction? Distraction! frenzy!—Oh, Hindali, can you not aid me? But, no; leave me alone to brave the horrors of my fate! Leave it to despair to steel my heart with more than woman's courage. Yes, I have thought; my resolve is fixed;—an awful resolve. The next you hear of me will indeed be eventful!

SELMIDA *to* CANZADA.

MADAM,—I ask a favour, which your situation at court puts it in your power to grant. Will you, to-morrow, before the King goes out, procure me an audience of him,—a secret audience? I wish no mortal, not even himself, to know of it, till the moment arrives. This is a strange request; but strange is the extremity which has driven me to ask it. I cannot, dare not say more; but from what you know, and have seen of me, you must judge if it is likely that my present purpose is for good, or for evil.

SIRA to DALINDA.

DEAR MADAM,—My entire attachment to you makes me not lose a moment in communicating a matter which intimately concerns you. If you do not immediately exert yourself, your place is lost. Selmidā has thrown herself upon the King, unasked, unexpected : she seems determined to carry the post by storm. There was a private audience, and what passed there I am of course unable to inform you ; but I saw his Majesty immediately after : he looked very sweet and gracious indeed. He has long been suspected of a partiality that way ; and now, when such strong measures are taken,

it is very alarming. I hasten to inform you of the circumstance, that you may take what steps appear to you most advisable.

DALINDA to BOSTANGA.

THE enclosed will inform you of an incident the most unexpected, the most provoking. Oh, the intolerable wretch! She, who put on such a semblance of modesty; who, forsooth, was much too pure to have any intercourse with such a creature as I!—You see the danger which threatens us all: we must unite in contriving the means to crush her. Do you consider your part: Méantime,

I hasten to the palace, in order to do every thing in my power to efface the impression.

SIRA to DALINDA.

THE last intelligence, Madam, which I sent to you, was transmitted the moment I received it, in order that no time might be lost. I have been inquiring into the business, and have been fortunate enough to ascertain some particulars, which will tend to calm your anxiety. The girl, it seems, arrived in a state of the utmost agitation, and having procured admission to the King, threw herself at his feet, imploring mercy and pro-

tection. The King asked, with surprise, what danger she feared? "Not for myself, but for my parents, whose lives are threatened, if I do not consign myself to worse than death." "Oh! I fear you are thinking of some one whom you ought not." "Oh! Sire, spare me, spare me upon that subject." "But why do you apprehend, that any danger threatens your parents?" "Oh! Sire, ask not why, but swear to me by all that is sacred in heaven, that they will be safe." "Well, you really are quite mistaken in these fears; at all events, however, should it prove so, be assured, I will prevent it. I give you my royal word; I solemnly give it. Be at perfect ease."—After a warm acknowledgment she then rose, and hastily departed; nor did there appear, so far as I could learn, any attempt to improve the favourable dispositions in which the King evidently was. It will be highly expedient, cer-

tainly, to prevent the repetition of such visits ; but there is not, I believe, much to be apprehended from any thing that has yet passed.

SELMIDA *to* HINDALI.

OH ! my friend, the dreadful trial is over, my purpose is accomplished. The word of a King is pledged to me, that no evil shall light on those from whom I hold my being. But this is not all. I have an awful, cruel determination to announce to you. I am about to leave this place,—to leave Cashmire,—to leave my parents ! What is more ; I am not even telling them that I go, or whither.

Do you conceive the motives for this dismal resolution? You must see how important it is, that they should be clear from the guilt which my departure contracts in the eyes of those who reign here. They should therefore be able to say, that they neither knew nor advised it.—Whither I am going need not be told. I go to join the husband to whom my vows have long been plighted; and, in whatever region of the earth he is, to make that my home. I go to join him, since fate drives me. The same motive which has hitherto detained me, now urges me away: My absence will now be almost as much the safety of my parents, as my presence formerly was. I need not say what I think of such a separation. Oh, my parents! from whom I fly to the extremity of the world, without leave, without adieu, as if you were nothing to me! But this tempest which hurries me along, blunts feelings, which,

at another moment, would rack me with despair. I must conclude : An old servant, a faithful friend of the family, will alone attend me ; and I dread no danger. You shall hear from me. Farewell, my friend ; farewell, till some great revolution of time unite us !

SELMIDA to her MOTHER.

OH ! my beloved mother, these are parting lines ; and, before you read them, I shall be far distant. In this dreadful exigence no remedy was left to me, but thus to fly. I say not even whither I go ; only conjecture is left to you. This is, that you may be able to deny all

knowledge whither I have gone, or to whom. What I feel at this moment is far beyond all power of language to express. Farewell, farewell! Heaven will, I trust, shorten this separation, which rends me asunder, as it were, from myself. Farewell; you shall hear from me.

SELMIDA *to* CORASMIN.

I HAVE to announce to you, what, it is probable, you little expected: I am at this moment on my way to the place where you are. Think you, Corasmin, had the star of your fortune continued to shine, that I would have taken a step so repugnant to female pride, to trem-

bling filial affection? that I would have abandoned parents, country, and thrown myself wholly upon you? I come not, let me tell you, a willing bride: I come an exile, a fugitive; because my home could no longer afford me shelter. You will scruple to take me, perhaps, upon these terms; if so, do not consider yourself as bound.

If you are disposed to write, I may receive a letter at Noontal, after passing the frontier.

CORASMIN *to* SELMIDA.

YOUR letter is received. Oh! what a surprise! what bliss! Just as expectation,

long cheated, began to die; as my heart was about to sink under the weight of solitude and sorrow;—what a miracle of love and constancy! Yet some regret tempers my rapture; that you should leave the most brilliant of fortunes, to share the lot of an exile, a fugitive. But you come; in three days I will see you! You will meet at Noontal a lady of the most respectable character, with whom I have become acquainted here, and to whom you will remain attached till I can claim to be considered as your protector. This appeared to me the arrangement most likely to be agreeable to you. I cannot express my feelings: In three days I will see you.

CORASMIN *to* ZINGANI.

To your friendly bosom, even while yourself suffer, I may confide my joy. Selmida is here; and is mine. After such faithful love, and long separation, you may conceive the bliss of such a reunion. Existence seemed to glow in its first charms, ere fate had poisoned the sources of bliss. The overthrow of my fortunes, exile, even the wrongs of a suffering world, faded into the distance. The intoxication is past, and busy memory resumes her empire; yet still a rich cordial is mixed with every bitterness.

And now, my friend, since a secure channel of communication is opened, I depend chiefly upon you for information; for I still long to know all, evil and sorrowful though it be. The solicitation of friends has procured some mitigation of your confinement: this I rejoice at. The boon has been granted; it will not be used for any purpose actively hostile to those from whom it has been extorted. No such measure is in contemplation: but no tie of honour, surely, prevents us from communicating to each other, what we observe and think of the events of the passing scene.

SELMIDA to HINDALI.

I AM arrived here in safety, and am the wife of Corasmin. This great revolution in my fate is accomplished. I have left country, fortune, friends, for him alone; and yet he is more to me than all. I find no cause indeed to repent. My presence was welcome, and much wanted. Yet a cruel anxiety racks me: I do not yet certainly know, that the precautions taken for my parents' safety, are crowned with success. Oh! think of the mortal suspense with which I am racked. If aught should be of what I dare not name, never again would there be peace for me on earth. What

pangs shoot across me! Oh! that I had rather braved any fate, even that most horrible. Yet, surely no; the sacred word of a Monarch is pledged, and will not be broken. But, oh! Hindali, write, write!

KAVIDI *to* VIZIGNAN.

I LOSE no time in communicating to your Majesty an incident, which cannot fail to call forth your liveliest indignation. Your Majesty had sanctioned my intended alliance with the family of Maled; you had expressed your wish, that it should take place. You had judged, (and no one, I flatter myself, would dissent from your Majesty's opi-

nion), that the connexion was every way worthy of the family, and even beyond what they were entitled to expect. Instead of conforming, however, to your Majesty's will, in a point so plainly reasonable, she not only refuses compliance, but suddenly takes her departure out of the kingdom. As to her destination, there cannot be the smallest doubt. She is gone to join the traitor, Corasmin; a wretch with whom I have long suspected that she carried on a secret correspondence. It is in vain to think of overtaking her, because her departure was kept secret, and was not even suspected, for more than two days. But I know, and can prove, that her parents have all along favoured and approved this treasonable intercourse; that they have shared all its guilt. Let vengeance, then, which has been much too long delayed, fall at last on their heads! Let your Majesty, I beseech you, confide to me the care of

vindicating the violated respect due to your orders. They, and all who feel like them, must learn the consequence of connecting themselves with known traitors, and of setting the royal authority at open defiance.

VIZIGNAN *to* BOSTANGA.

I HAVE received from your coadjutor, Kavidi, a very angry letter, on the subject of the young lady, Selmida. She, it seems, has not only rejected his suit, but has fled, as he alleges, for the purpose of joining Corasmin. Unable to overtake her, he calls for vengeance upon the family who remain. I am fully deter-

mined, on no account, to grant what he asks. . . . They are a family whom I like, and who, I firmly believe, have no criminal intentions against me. Besides, my royal word is pledged, and shall not be violated. The gentle and good old man ! let not a hair of his head be touched. The poor girl, I believe, was attached to Corasmin before his banishment, and still, it would appear, prefers him to Kavidi. I do not see any danger that can hence arise to me, or to my authority. I repeat it,—my protection is given to this family.

DALINDA *to* BOSTANGA.

I AM very much surprised to find that Kavidi, your protégé, is again making a noise about that girl. I assure you, I am most exceedingly angry. He had no sort of occasion to stir this business at all; and, after what has happened, to renew it is quite intolerable. That interview was rather serious: I did not like at all the state in which I found the King. He is determined to fulfil his oath, and I will not attempt to shake him. I positively insist, that there shall not be another word, of any description, said upon that subject. What care I for the girl? let her go to her Corasmin: I shall be

heartily glad never to see or hear of her more. Kavidì, since the bird is flown, must even console himself as he best can; and really I see nothing so very grievous in the loss.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

I TRANSMIT to you with this a letter of Dalinda, which leaves, I apprehend, no doubt as to the course which must be followed. We must submit to necessity, and quietly allow the affair to drop.

And here, my friend, I must frankly confess to you, that the difficulties of our situation are increasing every day. The King becomes continually more trouble-

some and intractable. Even when he does not directly oppose us, he remains, at least, mournfully passive; never adopts our plans with alacrity, never makes them his own. Trust me, this edifice of grandeur which we have raised, a breath would blast it.

I beseech you to rack your invention for some mode of improving our funds; nothing can be more miserable than the state into which they have fallen. The misfortune is, that the same taxes no longer yield so much as they formerly did. The people, it seems, say, that they have lost the motive for labour, since they are no longer sure of reaping the fruits. At this language I recognize at once the emissaries of Corasmin. They persuade the people to leave their occupations, merely that no benefit may arise to us from their being carried on. However, they shall find us prepared to meet them: We will increase the rate, till the

sum wanted is produced. In some form or other the money shall be extracted. Meantime, the King harasses me dreadfully upon this subject. It was but the other day he began, in a high tone, "I desire that a state of my finances be laid before me; I wish to know how I stand. You must admit, whatever else was wrong, that this department, at least, was flourishing when you came to it." "The finances, Sire! Oh, they are in an admirable state, they are improving most rapidly. But ah, how was your Majesty deceived! The statements you allude to were altogether false! What labour has it cost us to bring them into any degree of order! The accounts are not yet exactly brought into a shape in which your Majesty can understand them; but by and bye they will be so: we will one day astonish your Majesty. To prove, in short, the excellent condition in which they are, here is a sum which we can

command, without encroaching on any one necessary object, and which your Majesty may employ in whatever manner you choose. Perhaps, at this fine season, a short excursion through the country may be the most agreeable way in which you could spend it." Thus I draw him off, and a respite is gained for the moment; but it is impossible to say how long it may last.

VIZIGNAN *to* BOSTANGA.

I HAVE finished the little excursion which you proposed to me; but I am sorry to say, derived little satisfaction from what I saw; above all, when com-

pared with what I recollected to have seen. How is it, when my minister was faithless to me, that all things so succeeded with him? every plan was executed; my people prospered; and I was happy. All appears changed: I see nothing now of that content and cheerful industry, the view of which was then so grateful. Can it be well?—these unbounded expenses which are lavished on every side, in mere vanity, as I can see! Why is exaction upon exaction necessary; yet money still wanting? Why am I thus hurried from pleasure to pleasure? what do I say, from guilt to guilt? Formerly I went secure, without guards or attendants: as I passed, every eye brightened; the sight of my people afforded the richest feast to me. Far different is now the look of timid aversion with which I am viewed. No animation, no improvement! the fields going to waste; nature itself drooping! All is

not well; some change there must be. Happy should I find myself, could you prove to me that there is no foundation for these complaints; but to me they appear unanswerable.

BOSTANGA to VIZIGNAN.

I AM exceedingly sorry to find, that your Majesty supposes yourself not to be regarded by your subjects with the affection which is due to you. I am confident, that, unless in the case of a very few, whose minds are poisoned by traitorous emissaries, their sentiments are entirely such as could be wished. You believe them discontented:—To ascer-

tain this point, I will merely propose one simple experiment. Let a proclamation be issued, permitting, nay, inviting any one who conceives himself labouring under grievances, to lay them before your Majesty. You will thus see at once all the complaints which your subjects have to prefer ; and if these should prove to be of any magnitude, then dismiss me, dismiss all your servants, and change the whole system of government. I cheerfully consent to abide by this trial : I wait only the instructions of your Majesty, to prepare and publish it.

BOSTANGA to KAVIDI.

I ENCLOSE a proclamation which is about to be issued, and, what will astonish you, at my suggestion. You tremble; you anticipate the torrent with which we are to be overwhelmed! Now, Kavidi, is the time for exertion. Our care must be, that not a single individual may avail himself of the permission thus offered. Woe to any one that should dare to do so! But we must crush them in the bud. Learn by every means, when or where such a measure is in agitation; and warn them, at their peril, not to proceed.

Meantime, upon taking a serious view of our present situation, it does appear extremely desirable that something were done to relieve our embarrassments ; to throw a lustre on our administration ; to dazzle the eyes of the King, of the nation, of the world. The object at which I point, is *conquest*. We must seek some splendid military success, some extension of empire. You remember well the reputation which our predecessor thus gained ; though, by a vain ostentation of national disinterestedness, he threw away the advantages which might have been derived from it. Our course will be somewhat different. But you will ask, in what direction I propose that our arms should be turned ? I see no tract that lies so convenient, of which the conquest will be so profitable, or so easily made, as the state of Kilan. The only difficulty will be, to find a pretence, at all decent, of making war ; for there is

no nation which has shewn a disposition so uniformly friendly: they may even boast of having adhered to us in somewhat trying circumstances. However, when we have fixed upon what is convenient, our invention doubtless will suggest something, that may be quite as plausible as is usually expected in such cases.—By the way, I now recollect that Corasmin, our mortal enemy, resided in this state for a considerable time, and, as I firmly believe, with the full favour and connivance of the government. This will afford the happiest pretence, and indeed a real cause: Upon this we will proceed.

From the Same to the Same.

BEING fully determined upon the measure which I lately mentioned to you, I have just opened it to the King. Contrary to my expectation, I found him quite averse to it. "The Kilan government!" exclaimed he, "are they not our firmest friends, our oldest allies? Of all enemies, they certainly are the last that I should have dreaded." I was really unprepared, having no reasons to give, but such as, probably, he might have thought insufficient. I judged it proper, therefore, to keep back, and merely, with a deep mysterious air, assured his Majesty, that I would soon assign ample

grounds. for the advice which I had given. I then hastened to Dalinda, whose vanity was flattered by the idea, and whose influence, I hope, will soon reconcile the King to it. I beg, therefore, that you will employ yourself in considering how success may be secured to this undertaking, on which our credit and reputation must mainly depend. In the first place, you must write to our ambassador, enjoining him to make a formal complaint on the subject of the protection afforded to Corasmin, and of all the other grievances with which your memory can furnish you. Let reparation be demanded, to an extent which there may be no reason to apprehend they will grant: Let no explanation, no apology, be listened to. If any offer is granted, it must be followed by new and greater demands. Care must, above all, be taken, that the negociation do not terminate amicably.

The next question is, whom we are to place at the head of this expedition? and our interest is plainly, that it should be the very best general who can be found. I see really none whom we can prefer to old Gasuli, obstinate and untractable as he is. I am afraid he has some leaning to another interest ; but he has so little understanding as to state affairs, that, if skilfully managed, he will not, I believe, know much difference. I beseech you to repair to him, and to employ all your art, and all your address, in order to attach him to us.

From the Same to the Same.

DALINDA has, with her usual success, managed the mind of the King. He concurs in our project, and is fully prepared to enjoy the success which, I hope, will crown it. But a circumstance the most provoking, and which I had the least title to expect, is, that our ambassador, instead of paving the way for the war which we are determined to make, seems to have no object, except to preserve amity complete between the two nations. The following are the terms in which he chuses to write to me : “ You
“ cannot imagine what difficulty I found
“ in executing your commission. The

“ people here seem really grateful and
 “ attached to Cashmire, and anxious to
 “ give proofs of it on every occasion. I
 “ scarcely see any ground of offence,
 “ that can be brought forward with the
 “ shadow of plausibility. Might I ven-
 “ ture humbly to give my opinion, it
 “ would be, that some other country
 “ would be more creditable to his Ma-
 “ jesty’s arms.” Can you conceive any
 thing so intolerable? I order him to
 find me some ground of offence, and he
 sends me this. What materials for a
 manifesto can I find here? Recal him
 instantly, and I will send a man who will
 better understand the purpose of his mis-
 sion. Meantime, let the preparations be
 carried on without intermission; for I
 am determined upon the measure; and
 no such obstacles as these shall divert
 me from it. You have managed admi-
 rably with Gasuli: his cordial co-opera-

tion will, I hope, be the surest pledge of our triumph.

From the Same to the Same.

WELL, I have heard from our new negociator: matters are put into a fair train. Soon nothing will remain, besides the drawing up of the manifesto. But a mischief has befallen us, of which the consequences, I fear, will be most serious. How hard a lot is this, to be subjected to every caprice of such a creature! Daulinda, without any solicitation or wish of mine, has taken upon herself the task of supplying us with a commander. And upon whom do you imagine that her wis-

dom has fixed? You know Shervidi, a fine looking young fellow certainly, and quite calculated to embellish a court-circle, but who possesses, so far as I can discover, no qualifications that can fit him for any other situation. As to military talents or experience, it is needless to name them. This is the personage whom she judges expedient to place at the head of our armies. "Madam," said I, "you cannot doubt the extreme attention which will be paid to every recommendation of yours. Shervidi is indeed a very fine young man; but, Madam, the affair is serious; all our interests are at stake. The other has had much more experience; his prowess is tried; the army, the nation, would place far greater confidence in him." "Oh! no, indeed; Shervidi is the best general possible! (precious judge!) You cannot imagine how clearly he shewed me, how he would put an end to the

campaign at one blow, and how foolish were the plans of that surly old fool! Oh! depend upon it, he is your man; you must by all means employ him: as for that other; I cannot endure the very thought of him.” “ I certainly, Madam, have had every reason to place reliance upon your judgment; but the army, I fear, will unwillingly obey so young a man; the King, too, approves, and is pleased with the appointment of Gasuli. He is a horrid brute; but we have as yet had nothing like him for beating an enemy.” “ As for the troops, Sir, I understood that a commander was to be chosen *for* them, not *by* them; and as to the King, that is *my* business. No, no; I insist upon it; I make a point of it. I make myself responsible for success, provided my man is employed.” In short, the wretch will not give up her point; we must even submit. It is a miserable thing, but there is no possible remedy.

It had been better, I fear, not to have embarked at all in the affair. All that can be done now is to hasten to Gasuli : Use all your address, all your insinuation, all your influence over his mind ; shew him the absolute necessity under which we have acted ; endeavour to persuade him at least to accompany the army, and to furnish his advice. Cause him, if possible, to imagine, that this young fellow will be a mere instrument in his hands ; and, as far as we possibly can, so he must be made. He will always, I hope, be of some use, and will be a certain check upon the folly of his associate. We are too far advanced now to render it possible to recede ; nothing is left but to push forward, and do every thing in our power to turn aside the obstacles to success.

SELMIDA *to* HINDALI.

OH! my friend, as we were beginning to breathe, a new calamity overwhelms us; one that falls heavier on Corasmin than all that he has yet endured. After having so long witnessed the suffering of his country, he is now called to witness its dishonour. Violating every principle of public faith, war is about to be levied against the oldest and most faithful ally of Cashmire. Oh! what a fate for my country; and how changed from those days when her sons marched forth to humble the oppressor, and make justice rule over mankind! when, with a proud, a beating heart, I saw my hero march

forth to glory and victory! Contending nations then chose her for their umpire. That honour which, under his auspices, once rose so high, she forfeits in an unworthy cause, where defeat and victory would be sad alike. Corasmin has been invited, nay urged, to join the standard of Kilan, and to place himself at the head of its armies; but he refuses, on principles in which I entirely concur, to bear arms against his country. We remain here, then, in quiet, and suffer only from what we see passing around us. Let us hear from you, and learn, at least, that all is well with our private circle, and that we have only public woes to bear.

CORASMIN *to* ZINGANI.

I SUFFER, my friend, and I need not tell you why. I am bowed down beneath the fall of my country's honour. Yes; those banners which, wherever a just cause was to be defended, were wont to be displayed, are now destined to wave in the blood of the innocent and the oppressed. Oh! my countrymen, fellows in arms, must your blood flow in so unworthy a warfare! I am bound now, by every moral tie which unites man to man, to wish for you disaster and humiliation. But in vain am I asked, am I entreated; in vain is it even represented as my duty, to take up arms

against you. Cashmire! by whomsoever ruled, still thou art my country; still joined to me by dearer, closer ties, than any other land on earth! The bond which once united us is too powerful for any thing on earth ever to break. Just though that cause be, I ought not to be found among its defenders. If the eternal laws of right wring from me wishes in its favour, they are faint, sad wishes; and cruel to my eyes would be the triumph. Yes; let the righteous cause prevail! yes, though my heart bleeds to see it! Heaven will, I trust, interfere in its favour; but surely I was never its destined instrument.

GASULI *to* KAVIDI.

I CAN assure you, I am very ill satisfied with the post assigned me; I repent exceedingly, that I should ever have agreed to it: however, since I was weak enough to suffer myself to be prevailed upon, I shall give you an account of what passes. Every thing is in the worst possible condition. The persons who are appointed to furnish supplies for the army, prey upon it like so many vultures. It would require experience and dexterity, greater than I possess, to supply so many deficiencies: whether this court-general of yours will possess these qualities, remains to be seen. I begin heartily

to rejoice at not finding myself in his place. The only possible chance consists in the great superiority of our force: It will require much management, however, to render this of any avail.

From the Same to the Same.

WELL; you are all, I presume, in the highest exultation. Certainly our army has entered Kilan, has met with no resistance, and is advancing towards the capital. I should be very sorry to interrupt your rejoicings with prophecies of evil. Certainly, whatever the success of the campaign may be, the glory of it will belong exclusively to Shervidi. I

claim not the smallest lot or portion in it. Whatever advice I have offered, has been repelled with a lofty mysterious air, as if he saw much deeper than I, and had views which I was incapable even of comprehending. Happy shall I be to see the fruits of this high wisdom. Affairs must soon come to a crisis; and it will appear what the result is to be.

KAVIDI *to* BOSTANGA.

OH! my friend, what have I to announce to you. The fate of our conquering army is sealed; scarcely does a wreck remain. After such mighty preparations, who could have expected such an issue?

All has arisen from having Shervidi at its head. Instead of paying regard to the counsels of Gasuli, he treated that veteran with the most studied contempt; he took advice only of his own inexperience. The Kilanites presented no force to oppose him; they placed themselves on his flank, among the mountains, waiting the favourable moment. Our hero, however, advanced, dreading no danger; every warning was thrown away upon him. In addition to his imprudence, the army was far from being in a desirable state. The persons whom we had appointed to furnish the supplies, had behaved in a manner the most shameful; every thing which should have been forwarded to the army, had been converted to their own private emolument. Shervidi had no invention to supply what was wanting. Thus the army could not be kept orderly or united; it marched in an irregular straggling manner, plundering the

districts through which it passed. The enemy saw their advantage; they fell upon our army when it was quite unprepared for resistance. Numbers were of no avail; the confusion, the route soon became total. The young captain was the first to take flight, without any attempt to extricate his troops. The command then fell of itself upon Gasuli, in whom alone the army reposed confidence. By his exertions a part has been saved, and has arrived at the frontier, though in a miserable condition. Happily, the Kilanites are so far overawed by the name of Cashmire, as to offer terms which may be considered tolerable; and I see no alternative but to accept these, renouncing all our visionary schemes of ambition.

DALINDA *to* BOSTANGA.

I PRESUME you have already learned the result of your famous expedition. I know perfectly the causes of it;—Shervidi has written me a full account how it happened. Had he been left unfettered, there would not have been the smallest doubt of complete success. But, not chusing to place confidence in him, you sent along with him this old wretch, jealous and enraged, because he himself was not appointed. He fomented every sort of cabal and mutiny against the poor young man, obstructed every measure, and rendered it impossible for him to carry any one of his plans

into execution. At last, secure of the soldiers, and lost to all sense of decency, he drove him away, and, without right or authority, assumed the chief command to himself. From that era the whole state of affairs was changed: The army, which, down to that moment, had proceeded triumphantly, was now totally lost. I trust that most exemplary punishment will be inflicted upon him, both on account of his baseness towards Shervidi, and of his disobedience and mutiny against the King's orders. If such things are permitted to pass, what will this nation come to? But, indeed, scarcely any mischief can be worse than that in which he has involved us.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

ALREADY, before receiving your letter, I had learned the horrible disaster which has befallen us. It is past thinking or speaking of: our situation is now become truly deplorable. To aggravate our calamity, here is a letter from that hateful creature, Dalinda: see the tone she has taken.—And yet we cannot make head against her; to her alone we can trust for soothing the King, who will now, more than ever, be in danger of escaping from us. These scoundrels, too, who embezzled the supplies, and left the army unprovided;—would to Heaven that an example were made of

them ! but they are persons of such consequence, such favour, that nothing can be done : we must take no notice as if such a thing had happened. Good Heavens ! that I should be so situated, and find no one on whom to vent my fury. Is the treaty concluded ? it is a dismal humiliation ; but there is no remedy : did the war continue, it were impossible to foresee the consequences. Oh, that a time would come, when I might have vengeance for these wrongs !

KAVIDI *to* BOSTANGA.

I AM much concerned to state, that the disappointment of our hopes threat-

ens to be the least of the disasters which will arise from our unfortunate campaign in Kilan. It has dispelled that opinion of our strength, which before had been our main bulwark. The sovereign of Bukaria has conceived the hope of avenging the humiliation which his arms experienced, in the former war with this country. All his armies are drawing towards our frontier. I am credibly informed, that he hopes for nothing less than the entire subjugation of Cashmire. It is vain, at such a moment, to disguise the truth ; our danger is most imminent. After the experience which we have had in Kilan, what can we hope from our army, our generals ? To what quarter can we look for aid ? Truly, I see no resource except one. You know the great things which Corasmin achieved by calling the assembly of the nation. Perhaps, were we to imitate his example, the result might now be the same. I

am perfectly sensible of all that is dreadful and odious in this assembly, and of the furious ill-humour in which they would meet ; but still, if we have actually no other resource, what remains to us but to try this ? After parrying the first blow, we might manage them so as to serve our purpose, and then have done with them. This is what occurs to myself ; but I, of course, submit the proposal to your superior judgment.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

THE tidings which you have given me are bad indeed. I perfectly agree with what you say, as to the desperate condition to which we are reduced. Nothing,

assuredly, can be worse. But as to the remedy you propose, I am perfectly astonished that such an idea should ever have occurred to you. In what manner, pray, are we to meet this boasted assembly? or what species of reception may we anticipate? They may, for aught I know, save the country from the enemy, but who is to save us from them? From the moment that they meet, our power certainly expires. I entreat, therefore, that you never mention such a plan, unless to treat it as perfectly chimerical. We must, with the means **before** us, do as well as we can, which, I am sensible, will be abundantly ill; but by no means have recourse to such wild and desperate remedies. What I wish, then, Kavidî, is, that you repair in person to this monarch; that you unite the utmost address, with every liberal concession, in order, by any possible means, to ward off an attack, for which we are so miserably ill

prepared. It is of course not your part to admit, that our affairs are thus desperate : You must represent them in the most flattering possible light ; but at the same time, for the sake of peace, and for the other reasons customary on such occasions, we are willing to sacrifice something. I need not impress upon you the urgent necessity for concluding a treaty of one kind or another.

KAVIDI to BOSTANGA.

I HAVE, according to your wish, repaired to the court of Bukaria, and fulfilled your instructions as diligently as possible. I have so far succeeded, that I believe

this cabinet is by no means aware of the little resource which now remains to us. At the same time, the terms they ask are high,—very high indeed; and I must yet make a great stand before yielding to them. Meantime, a proposition has been secretly made to me, which will not, I think, meet your approbation, but which yet I should think myself not acting candidly if I did not communicate. It has been intimated, that the monarch would be ready to confer upon you and myself every degree of honour and power which we could desire, provided, instead of opposing, we should become instrumental in forwarding his views. I hope I have not acted improperly, in communicating this proposal. I have given no reason to believe that it will be listened to; but I merely wait your instructions, before giving it a final rejection.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

You have acted with the highest propriety, in communicating to me without delay the proposition made by the Bukarian court. The subject deserves well the most serious consideration. You see the miserable state to which Vizignan has reduced himself, by his infatuation for this creature, Dalinda. He has brought the kingdom to such a condition, that it cannot possibly go on longer with him at its head. For him, therefore, we can no longer pretend to do any thing; all we have left, is to provide for ourselves and for the nation. Now, can it be doubted that the government would be

carried on much better by us than it has been by him? Then, as to ourselves, I see no other method of extrication from the most miserable situation imaginable. What avails this precarious sway in a kingdom without revenue, without resource, without means of defence; subject, too, to the caprices of a creature whom we utterly condemn, but who, from being our instrument, has become our ruler? The situation at which your proposal points, would certainly be much more independent and eligible. Upon the whole, it is one which to reject rashly, would be the extreme of folly. I therefore wish, that, without absolutely committing yourself, you endeavour to ascertain the extent of the advantages which the Bukarian is willing to offer. The grand object on which you must not relax, is, that the whole internal administration should be placed in our hands. Here the great stand is to be

made. Provided this point is secured, there are others on which we cannot refuse to concede. Tribute, of course, and that not inconsiderable, will be expected. When he engages in war, our military force must, doubtless, be at his disposal. If he wishes to quarter troops in Cashmire, this demand, to a certain extent, cannot well be refused, and may even be conducive to our own security. It will be creditable to us, and may even tend to procure higher terms, if you manifest some degree of reluctance:—"We cannot think, without the greatest pain, of a step so contrary to our feelings, so liable to be misunderstood; nothing but the great sufferings of the nation,"—and so forth. Make the best terms possible; but remember always, how extremely desirable it is that the negotiation should not be broken off.

KAVIDI *to* BOSTANGA.

THE perusal of your last letter gave me new cause to admire the depth of foresight and judgment by which all your political views are regulated. There is no doubt, that your plan is the very best which we can follow in our present circumstances. I am happy to say, that I have found this court fully as moderate and reasonable as could be expected. I have succeeded in conveying to them an idea of our popularity and consequence in the kingdom, somewhat beyond what would have been suggested by actual observation. The terms which I have obtained are therefore such as, all

things considered, leave no room for complaint : They coincide very nearly with the project which yourself sketched out. I have sent a copy of what may serve for the heads of a final arrangement. The urgent point is, that the King, and the boy who would inherit the crown, should, with all convenient speed, be put into the hands of the Bukarian monarch. You, who are on the spot, must contrive the means; and I know too well your ingenuity to doubt, that you will be able to succeed without much difficulty.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

I AM satisfied with the arrangements you have made. I will fulfil my engagements with the Bukarian monarch : The period will not be long, ere the royal family of Cashmire are delivered up to him. The King, who possesses a military spirit, will be easily induced, at a moment when his kingdom is threatened, to move towards the frontier. When he does so, the castle of Vadi presents itself as the natural spot on which to fix his residence. It must then be our part to provide, that this place shall be entirely occupied and possessed by our devoted adherents. I know the governor;

I am sure of him : and arrangements can easily be made for removing all those who would obstruct our designs, or even who would not cordially concur in them. Courage, my boy ! let us not be wanting to ourselves, and in two months we are masters of Cashmire.

FAZIL *to* CORASMIN.

I HAVE complied with your earnest and repeated entreaty, not to follow you into that exile to which the most unworthy fate had consigned you. You refused to withdraw me from domestic ties, which were strong indeed, but which I would willingly have left. You con-

ceived, however, that thus unobserved, I might be useful in preserving still a communication with those here whom you most valued. The scene is now totally changed. I have reason to suspect that guilt has reached its utmost height; that his Majesty's sacred life is aimed at. He goes to the frontier, to the castle of Vadi; and I have a dread presentiment, that he is destined never to leave those fatal walls. It were treason to remain longer thus an inactive spectator. Scarcely, indeed, can I hope to rescue my Sovereign from such an host of perils; yet, I have means, I have connexions: I may do something. I will, at least, sacrifice myself in the cause. You, on learning what I now write, may perhaps be disposed to approach the frontier; and on the side of Kilan this might be done without danger. I beseech you to do no more; it would be vain.

From the Same to the Same.

I WRITE this by the most rapid express which I can procure. Stop, I beseech you; fulfil not your intention of entering Cashmire;—it would be an useless danger; all is already done that can be done. I hasten to give you the narrative.—With the utmost expedition I collected a small chosen band,—your ancient companions; I disclosed to them the meditated guilt, and we hastened, with our utmost speed, to the fatal precincts. Incredible precautions, we found, had been taken to remove all who might not be assured accomplices of their crime. In vain! Several of my companions

knew some of the lowest rank who had served under them, and whose hearts they believed to be firm and true: with them a communication was opened. We learned the condition in which the King was kept, the part of the castle where he lodged, the path which led to it. At length one of the soldiers, who was to act as sentinel, agreed to admit us at a certain hour. It was not in the night, as we could have wished, but at the first dawn of morning. Thus, having found entrance, we carried before us every obstacle, and reached the apartment of Vizignan. We found him unhonoured, stript of all the ensigns of dignity; already had it been announced to him for what purpose he came there, and what was to be his fate. On our entrance he rose, and, with an air of proud determination, presented his breast, as for the mortal blow. I threw myself at his feet, and hastily explained the pur-

pose for which we had come. He recognized us, and instantly drew back, like one to whom life was not a boon, and who would not fly for it; then suddenly casting his eye upon the young Prince, he flew to him, seized his hands, and hurried along with us. The alarm was now given; the traitorous band were collecting all their strength, and hoped to overwhelm us. By force or contrivance, however, we reached the gates; but we found the enemy, with all the force which he could hastily collect, guarding the only passage by which we could leave the castle. There was only one course to be taken;—we charged; they at once gave way, and we bore along our prize triumphant. But Kavidi, as he saw his men retreating, called to them to discharge all their darts upon the head of the King. The impious mandate was obeyed; Vizignan fell! We hastily raised him upon his horse,

and soon made the grateful discovery, that his life was not in immediate danger. His wounds being hastily bound up, we continued our journey ; a necessary though painful step, since a force too great to be resisted would soon have assembled behind. In such circumstances, I cannot hold out any full assurance of the King's recovery, though I still hope, that by our cares it may be effected. He remains absorbed in gloomy silence ; he has never uttered one word upon any of the subjects which must be nearest his heart. By his looks we guess, that dreadful thoughts are labouring within him ; but he communicates them to none. He has not even uttered a word of thanks ; yet his sadly gracious demeanour sufficiently testifies, that he estimates even beyond its merits what has been done. Only, whenever opportunity offers, we see him engaged in deep and earnest conversation with the young Prince ; but

what may be the purport, no one can conjecture. When you meet him, as you will soon do, he will, I trust, relieve his mind, by disburdening its load.

FAZIL *to* ZINGANI.

UNABLE to write myself, I was yet able to transmit to you the result of our enterprise. I can now communicate its final issue. When we passed the frontier, Vizignan lived; but his wounds, irritated by the journey, and by mental agitation, exhibited such symptoms as no longer allowed us to hope. Corasmin was not long of joining us. It was thought expedient that I should mention

his arrival to the King, who might have been injured by the shock of his sudden appearance. The moment that Vizignan heard of it, he passed from mournful silence to a state of the most extraordinary and dreadful agitation. "Ah, no!" exclaimed he, "I entreat, let him not come; let him not load the last hours of his dying King with that agony: It would double the pangs of death for me ever to see him more." I instantly ran out to inform Corasmin of what the King said. But he would not listen to it. "It is vain," said he, "to talk thus: see him I must, since he is here." I gained a short delay, however, and was considering how the mind of the King might be prepared for the meeting, when he himself suddenly said, "Yes, I will see him; I will see this minister, so virtuous and so greatly wronged. Such an interview, did vanity survive, would indeed be the last of humiliations: But

it is time,—high time indeed, that my pride should bend.” Corasmin, on receiving this permission, immediately came in, and threw himself at the King’s feet. I saw him : never did he so humble himself before Vizignan, in the days of his brightest glory. The aspect of the King became more tranquil. He said, “ Oh, Corasmin, I see you are still the same ! I expected you to exult over the calamity into which my wrongs against you have plunged me. When I thought so, I cruelly injured you. Well as I knew it, I had not learned to measure the greatness of that soul.” “ Indeed, Sire, I remember you only as I formerly saw you, because I know that then only you were truly yourself.” “ You remember those days ? Oh ! that I could live one of them over again ; but never, never !” “ I entreat your Majesty not to agitate yourself by such recollections. I trust that you will ; that all will be repaired.”

“ No, Corasmin, you vainly flatter me. I know my coming fate, and wish no other. But, oh ! I have much to say, and time presses. I ask not your forgiveness ; but, see one who has never offended. Here is my son, my only son : Be all to him : Impress upon him those true and wise maxims, of which I was so fatally unmindful. Conceal nothing ; it is just, it is right, that he should know all : let him take fearful warning from my conduct and fate. Yet sometimes, too, let him remember me as I was in that happy, ever-lamented period, when your wisdom guided my councils ; when I reigned only for my people’s good ; and when their love was the precious reward. And now, Corasmin, in this dying hour, I have something to say of the man whom I unworthily raised to power, and who has now betrayed me. If ever fate should deliver him into your hands, let justice be tempered with mercy ; let not

my wrongs be visited against him. I forgive him; I see him not as the author of my fate,—I see only the just vengeance of Heaven, and him the appointed instrument. Oh! that my wrongs against mankind might be somewhat atoned, by leaving them this salutary and dreadful warning!” The emotion of the King became now so great, that we judged it expedient to break off the conversation. Soon after, however, he had another long and private conference with Corasmin: It related, I believe, chiefly to the young Prince; and he received upon that subject, every assurance that could tranquillize his mind. The rest of his time was devoted to solemn meditation; and he expired, still repentant and sorrowing, yet tranquil and resigned, compared to what he had formerly been.

CORASMIN *to* ZINGANI.

My friend, the awful scene is closed: Vizignan suffers no longer. Oh, Heavens! did he indeed deserve that his errors, though great, should be visited thus heavily? Think not that, at such a moment, I retained any sentiment of his wrongs. I remembered only what he had been in happier days: all else became as if it had never been. But what an awful important charge is now entrusted to me! Oh, Osvan! oh, my King! who hast now me only in the world to depend upon; I must now hide your existence from mankind. Trembling I received the sacred deposit. All my

thoughts, my care, must now be, how to restore to the Cashmirian nation their rights and their Monarch. For this, toil, danger, life must be held as nothing. You, who are within the tyrant's grasp, and closely guarded, cannot aid us ; but your ardent wishes, I know, will be on our side.

BOSTANGA to KAVIDI.

OUR affair has, on the whole, succeeded, though not exactly as might have been anticipated. Who could have dreamed that this Fazil, a creature who never before did any thing, whose very existence I had actually forgotten, should

have thwarted us in this manner? The King escaped out of our hands, but pierced, as was plainly seen, by multiplied wounds; and I trust he no longer exists. Let us dismiss all thoughts of him, and think only how to enjoy the triumph we have gained. I am on my way to the capital, which I will enter as a monarch. I am master now, and wo to him that dares to dispute my will. But it delights me beyond every thing else, that we shall now have an opportunity of trampling under foot this wretch, this Dalinda; who has abused her power over us with such intolerable insolence. She shall find that we have no silly King to keep in thralldom by her allurements. All the haughtiness with which she dared to treat us, shall be returned tenfold. Our expeditions shall be no longer marred by stupid generals of her appointment. Meantime, Kavidi, it behoves us to be on the watch. Remember the multitudes by

whom our power is viewed with jaundiced eyes : one moment may forfeit all the fruit of our deep laid plans. Be constantly on your guard ; lend your ear to every rumour ; let suspicion alone be always enough to authorize the most prompt and decisive measures. Let no vain scruples deter you.

BOSTANGA *to* DALINDA.

MADAM,—The very friendly footing on which we have always been, encourages me to prefer a request, which I should not have asked of every one. I have a project, along with some of my friends, of making a party on the water on the

first day of next month. Your barge being the most splendid and commodious which is kept upon the lake, would suit us better than any other. You could particularly accommodate us, therefore, by permitting us to use it on that day.

DALINDA *to* BOSTANGA.

You allude with truth to the good understanding which has always subsisted between us, and the repeated assurances of respect and gratitude which you have given me, could leave no room to doubt of your sincerity. The truth is, I am not much accustomed to lend my barge; and I had myself fixed to

take an excursion in it on the very day you mention. But the vessel is spacious, and I would occupy only a small part, so that there would still be room for any number of friends whom you might wish to bring. My presence, though you do not request it, would not, I hope, be any impediment to the pleasure of the party.

BOSTANGA to DALINDA.

I AM much gratified by the readiness with which you have complied with the request I made. Your barge will entirely suit us, and there can be no objection to your occupying a place. Your

goodness now emboldens me to ask another favour, which I should value still more highly. An amiable lady, in whom I take a particular interest, is in want of a house in town, where she could appear in the manner that I wish her to do. None would suit her nearly so well as that which you now occupy ; and if you found it perfectly convenient and agreeable to pass a month or two in your villa on the banks of the lake, it would be a very particular accommodation. I shall be happy to learn how you feel as to this proposal.

DALINDA *to* BOSTANGA.

I OBEY your order ; for such, I presume, you mean that it should be considered. As soon as I have leisure to make the necessary removals, I leave the house *permanently*. Your lady shall have it at her entire disposal.

BOSTANGA *to* DALINDA.

IN making my request, which I thank you for complying with so promptly, I overlooked a material circumstance. The lady will now indeed have an excellent house in town; but should she wish at any time to breathe the air of the country, she would be quite at a loss. If you could by any means contrive to let her have that charming villa of yours on the banks of the lake, it would be an obligation for which we never could be sufficiently grateful. You will indeed, by so doing, make us both perfectly happy.

DALINDA *to* BOSTANGA.

PROCEED ; finish your work : Expel from house and home, consummate the ruin of her, by whose aid you rose to that guilty height. Oh ! now indeed I see the whole depth of my infamy ! All that I now suffer was well merited, from the moment that I raised to power *you* instead of *him* ; the vilest of men instead of the first and greatest. You may say, that these thoughts ought to have occurred sooner. I know it well : I claim no merit from my late unavailing repentance. But at least I will not humble myself so low as to sue for mercy. So, then, I bow my head to meet

my merited fate. Let the stroke be speedy; and let my name, which it has ill deserved, be numbered with those of the illustrious victims whom your hand has already sacrificed.

BOSTANGA *to* DALINDA.

I HAVE just had the satisfaction of perusing your letter. I am indeed quite charmed with the compliments which you pay to me. As to the request with which you conclude, it is not a measure which I myself thought of; but since you request it so earnestly, and since I have been so little in the habit of refusing any thing to you, I do not see how;

with a good grace, I can refuse this. Madam, you shall have what you demand.

BOSTANGA *to* HALACU.

You have been a useful man to us; and it is now in my power fully to recompense your good offices. There is still a little piece of service which I have to ask of you. You know well Dalinda, that creature who led the King quite astray, and brought the nation to such a condition, that it became absolutely necessary for us to make an entire change in the government. I was not, however, intending to proceed to any extremities

against her ; I merely proposed a little salutary mortification : but she instantly began in so outrageous a manner, as rendered it quite impossible to keep any measures. You understand : Take care that I be not annoyed with any more insolent letters from *her*.

BOSTANGA to KAVIDI.

OUR situation may now be considered as fortunate. We are fully established in power ; every one obeys ; and even our bitterest enemies dare not utter the slightest murmur. How is it then, when every wish is gratified ; when I have ascended the highest pinnacle of human

ambition ; how is it that I am not happy ? Yes ; I am miserable, amid the greatness for which I have paid so high. Whence arises this inward scourge ; or how can I deliver myself from it ? Is it, that all around me hate me, and wish my downfall. The idiots ! am I then less worthy to reign, than that dotard King who brought them to the very brink of destruction ? This, however, they have not judgment enough to see : they would give any thing short of life to see him or any of his race restored. At this moment, perhaps, secret plots are preparing to drive us from our seat. Snares and danger surround us ; the very ground on which we tread sinks beneath us. Let us not deceive ourselves ; we reign by terror alone : let us then inspire it ! Since they will not love us, at least they shall fear us. Our emissaries must be everywhere ; they must search the secrets of every house ; they must learn the slight-

est word that is uttered ; they must dive into the very thoughts. Wherever there arises ground for suspicion, let there be no delay ; let vengeance at once overtake the offender. It is proper they should see, that not a word can be uttered against us with impunity. The army, our main dependance, must be entirely new-modelled. We cannot indeed change the troops ; but every situation of command, of influence, must be placed in the hands of persons whom we can trust. Not the most distant possibility should be suffered to remain, of any plot being carried on against us. Then, perhaps, we may at last begin to enjoy that fortune, which our skill and policy has gained.

KAVIDI to BOSTANGA.

I AM truly sorry to confirm so soon the apprehensions which you entertain, from the wayward dispositions of this people. But an occurrence has just taken place, which renders our situation somewhat serious. Corasmin, who had been lurking among the mountains of Kilan, has suddenly made his appearance on our southern frontier. He has with him that boy who unhappily escaped us, and whom he has now set up to be the idol of the nation. With this instrument in his hands, it is easy to conceive what effects he may produce. Already all that range of mountains is in a blaze of

insurrection. His emissaries fly from village to village, calling aloud to arms. From the people we have nothing to hope; all our confidence must rest in the army, which I have ordered to move towards that quarter. I wait your instructions, as to any further steps which may be taken in this exigence.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

GOOD God! what is that you announce? Corasmin on our frontier, in arms; and so mighty an engine in his hands! Never were we involved in a danger so terrible: if the flame spreads, it will quickly consume us. Fly! lose -

not a moment ! All depends upon rapidity ; upon crushing it in the first bud. Search out criminals ; and, the moment they are discovered, let vengeance descend like lightning. Let punishment be rapid, complete. A few signal examples, a few heads struck off, may produce an excellent effect. How unfortunate, that the king of Bukaria, involved in a distant war, should have left so few troops in this quarter ! But let us make the utmost use of the army which we have ; let it advance without delay. Reduce the rebellious villages to ashes !—I repeat it, Fly !

FAZIL to ZINGANI.

I WRITE you, though I know not if a letter now will be able to reach you; but I have taken precautions that it may go no further, provided it proves impossible to forward it without danger. We are now all in motion. It has been determined, that, even with our slender means, a grand effort shall be made to liberate Cashmire from the impious hands of the usurper. We know all the obstacles which oppose us; the dreadful energies of that mind, which can make suffering millions be silent; the rapidity with which vengeance descends; the profound knowledge of all the arts by

which the minds of men are overawed. Yet is there not wanting a preparation in men's minds for our enterprise. The people, even under their greatest sufferings, did not upbraid Vizignan as the author: For him they felt always sorrow, rather than anger. While they saw what he was, they had always to recollect what he could be. Now, that he is separated in thought from his ministers; that he has paid the full forfeit of his guilt; and that only the blood of their ancient monarchs appears to claim their homage,—now all their loyal feelings are roused. They burn to re-assert their rights; to avenge his and their own wrongs. The ferment of an indignant people will deceive even the ever-watchful fears of the tyrant. From one extremity of Cashmire to the other there runs a hollow murmur, which presages a storm; a breath will make it burst. Now is the time to act, and to dare.

Selmida, whose sentiments are all one with those of her husband, refuses to remain, and insists upon following the expedition. Her presence, doubtless, will give a mighty impulse to it. She sets to all the example, of not disdaining the meanest offices in so great a cause. But, above all, her exhortations, her smiles, raise them, as it were, beyond themselves, and render them capable of every achievement. To meet her eye, disgraced, is what none could endure. We go forth, then, determined to brave every extremity, yet still full of hope. You shall soon hear the issue.

From the Same to the Same.

IMMEDIATELY after I last wrote you we began our march. We sought darkness, and the least frequented paths, to scale those tremendous barriers which divided us from Cashmire. Corasmin, long an exile, felt an extraordinary emotion in again entering his native land. His heart beat as he drew near to these sacred confines. But this awful crisis left room only for a troubled and tumultuous joy. Our object was, to reach a small town in the heart of these mountains, where, about this time, an assemblage was made, in order to exchange the commodities of the surrounding dis-

tricts. We went, mingled with the crowd, and disguised all peculiarities of dress, as if for the common purposes. Thus we remained undiscovered till the morning of the expected day. Then suddenly Corasmin, with a chosen band, hastened to an elevated spot. Here taking Osvan by the hand, he shewed him to the multitude; called out to them that here was their King; that they were enslaved and trampled on by the vilest of men; that now was the time to take arms against their parricide rulers. The Prince, and Corasmin himself, were recognized by many that were present: our band, dispersed through the multitude, explained all: soon the whole assemblage knew precisely how it was. They awoke as from a lethargy, as if they heard these tidings for the first time: A sublime frenzy seized every breast; all call upon Corasmin to place himself at their head. The only question was now,

how to arm and prepare them for the field. Emissaries have been sent to all the neighbouring districts, inviting them to rally round the holy standard. We have succeeded in our first enterprise; we are full of hope.

From the Same to the Same.

THE good cause has hitherto prospered. From valley to valley the glorious flame has spread like lightning; all the neighbouring districts are in arms; the ancient standard of Cashmire waves wide over its mountains. There cannot be a doubt, that a short interval would place the whole kingdom under our banners;

and yet our present situation is critical, almost dismal. The army of the tyrant, under the impious Kavidî, rapidly advances. The troops are, at heart, still faithful to their country; but every command, every post of importance, has been given to his creatures; the whole has been entirely moulded to his will. This army is disciplined, is powerful; our irregular levies could not stand its shock; and yet, if we fly, our cause is lost. These thoughts, I plainly see, cast a deep gloom over the mind of Corasmin; his breast evidently labours with something to which he will not give utterance. We wait in awful anxiety to see the result.

From the Same to the Same.

FROM the time I last wrote the aspect of affairs became every moment more formidable. The enemy pressed nearer; panic began to strike our adherents; and among some of the basest, symptoms of treason began to appear. Tidings arrived, of destroying vengeance which had overtaken some loyal districts that fell into the power of the enemy; and if, in generous minds, this roused a new and fiercer determination, in others it produced an opposite effect. These symptoms passed not unobserved by Corasmin: he was evidently big with some terrible purpose; yet he still kept si-

lence. At length he announced it to me. He was determined to go alone to the army, and seek, by the effect of his single presence, to recal them to their duty. When I exclaimed against a design so awfully perilous, "No," said he, "thus only can we hope the triumph of our cause, without a civil warfare almost interminable. The forces of Bukaria would soon arrive; then we must either at once abandon the contest, or support it through a series of ravage and blood, worse almost than slavery itself. No; all must at once be brought to this issue." I then urged, that at least I should be permitted to accompany him; but he replied, "By no means; you would thus only augment the danger. Besides, I have sacred trusts to leave in your hands. If I am lost, it will be your part to save them." He then gave me full instructions as to the conduct which I was to follow in every event. He who had

never before concealed any thing from Selmidas, wished, however, to conceal this; to spare unnecessary pangs, perhaps an opposition which it would have cost much to resist. It was merely intimated to her, therefore, that he was making a short excursion upon some business which concerned the general cause. But she, whose suspicions were already awakened, instantly saw that there was something concealed: "No," exclaimed she, "I know it well; you go on some desperate purpose, and I half guess what it is. But you must tell me all. Dread not my woman's heart; dread not that aught of mine should shake your resolves. No! did nature shrink within you, I should be the first to steel your courage. Only tell me." He told it to her. She shrunk back, and became pale as death. "Oh, my Corasmin! Oh, what a desperate purpose! You rush then on certain fate. This can never be."

He took her hand, and shewed why he did it, his reasons, his hopes. She started up, and paced the room in dreadful silence ; then clasping her hands, and again spreading them, she exclaimed, “ *Go!* ” That word spoke volumes. There must be no farewell, not even a parting look ; he must go at once. Corasmin understood her : Then clasping his uplifted hands, and fixing a long tender look, he rushed away. I ran after him : Not a word passed between us ; but he pointed to the King, and to Selmidia, with a look, the full force of which I understood. I returned to her. She sat, leaning her head on her hands, and closely pressing it to them, as if she would have wished, at that moment, to suppress her very existence. On my entrance she lifted her eyes, and merely said, “ Oh ! Fazil, how can I live through this interval ? ” then resumed her posture. I saw painted in her

countenance the most sublime heroism and resignation in a heart almost bursting. Silence only was left to me; for nothing could have diverted her mind from that single object. Thus I am left alone on the rack of suspense. Whatever, indeed, be the issue, for him it must be glorious. He goes, a holy, self-devoted victim, in the first of causes. But what peril amid the glory! What a fate were ours, if—but I cannot admit the idea. I hope, before closing this letter, to have heard something. I am breathless with mingled hope and fear.

TIDINGS are arrived: They are good; they are glorious!

Corasmin soon reached the place of his perilous destination. The camp was

guarded, and no other could have found entrance: but all the army was known to him. He learned the place where was posted a small portion of that band whom he had first led into the field, and whose hearts, he assured himself, remained still devoted to him. Through them he obtained admission and concealment. But the intelligence which he received was little encouraging. The army, misled and thoughtless, had caught the spirit of their chiefs: they anticipated, with eagerness, an approaching triumph, and the spoil of extensive districts, which were to be entirely given up to them. Corasmin, however, receded not from his purpose. Next morning, the whole army was drawn up in battle array, preparatory to its march. At that moment he rushed forth, and rode full speed along the line, exclaiming, "Soldiers! my ancient comrades! for whom do you fight? For traitors, for

parricides ! Yonder (pointing to the mountains) is your King; the holy standard of your country there waves; fight for *them* !” A deep pause of one moment ensued; then a voice exclaimed, “*Corasmin!*—*our King!*” That cry, like a flash of lightning, passed instantly from one extremity to the other. The fate of Cashmire was decided. A dart, thrown by a traitorous hand, slightly wounded the arm of Corasmin; but a guard was soon formed round him, and the few who still adhered to the cause of the usurper, were surrounded and secured. A cry then arose, that Kavidi should be instantly dispatched; and Corasmin would have pleaded for him in vain. But it proved, that he had taken flight at the first alarm, and was already far distant.

I lost not a moment, as you may well suppose, in hastening to Selnida. I found her still, as before, with her head pressed on her hands, that lay folded be-

fore her, motionless as on the rack. Thus had she remained immoveable till this awful veil was removed. On my entrance she started up, stretched forth her arms, with a fixed look of eager fearful inquiry, but no sound. In few and quick words I told "happy news." She dropped on her knees, and threw up her eyes, swimming in yet doubtful rapture. I hastily told the particulars. She could then exclaim, "Oh, Corasmin! oh, Providence, that art dark no longer!" Her agitation subsided soon into unmixed joy, and we could mingle our congratulations and thanksgivings. Yes; Heaven has now, indeed, granted us the summit of earthly felicity.

BOSTANGA *to* KAVIDI.

I AM happy to learn from you, that the army continues faithful: its valour will, I trust, be sufficient to dispel the threatened danger. I see more and more, however, how serious it is, in the disposition which is at present universal among men's minds. Even here, in the centre of our power, the ferment is incredible; no terror can suppress the symptoms. I cannot venture to raise a single man, nor can I even send to your aid the force which is stationed here: its services cannot be dispensed with. But I entertain great hopes from the southern provinces, which are most distant from

the scene of the revolt, and where the administration is in the hands of persons whom I can entirely trust. I have sent orders to forward from that quarter every man that can be spared. We may thence, I hope, derive a considerable reinforcement.

I HAVE just received intelligence from our commander in the south. The accounts are bad.—He describes his situation as alarming, and, unless reinforcements are sent with promptitude, cannot ensure the continuance of our authority in that quarter. Nothing, then, is to be hoped from thence. The army,—the army is our sole dependence. Use it promptly, vigorously; let my next tidings, if possible, be of some great success.

But here is a letter from you.—What? the army deserted! the army on the side of Corasmin! Nay, then indeed, what is left for us? whither shall we fly? The whole world turns against us; no refuge without nor within. Let me deliberate: Can policy, can despair suggest no resource?—I have reflected: we are undone, utterly, finally; there is not one hope remaining.—But I have not finished your letter; you have a proposition, I find, to make. What? sue to Corasmin for mercy! And this is what you dare to name to me? Coward, reptile! to fawn on your mortal enemy; to see him obeyed, triumphing, and us in the dust! Oh! all ye powers, never let me behold the accursed hour of Corasmin's triumph! Oh! that I could sell my life dear to him, whose elevation is more dreadful to me than my own fall! Go, wretch! and kiss the feet of the execrated Corasmin. But I, with a small band, who

will adhere to me in every extremity, I will rush, at least, to a glorious death. Oh, virtue! thy voice was silent when passion raged; yet secretly I had always wished, always hoped, ere this dreadful period arrived, to have sought and found thee! But, forward to meet my fate. No; I will sue to none for mercy: I will die unconquered, braving Heaven and earth.

CORASMIN *to* SELMIDA.

I HAVE now every thing that is favourable to announce. The army being ranged on our side, was ordered to advance; and the nation, rising on every

side, shut out on our enemies all the avenues of escape. In this situation a communication was received from Kavidi, in which he not only presented his own most humble submissions, but offered to betray into my hands the companion of his usurpation, on whom he attempted to throw all the guilt which had been incurred. I lent, however, altogether a deaf ear to such a proposition. For an object which we had the certainty of possessing by open means, I would not be indebted to such accursed treason. 'It had been something to have adhered now, even to the impious ties which united them. We pressed forward, therefore, to certain victory. The troops of Bukaria, seeing their cause quite desperate, refused to come into the field, and entered into a treaty of capitulation. Kavidi was dragged out of a hiding-place, to which he had betaken himself: But Bostanga, still governed

by fierce and unconquered pride, assembled all the adherents that remained ; a desperate band, whom the closest ties of common guilt kept still united. With these, insignificant in their number, he made a sudden attack on our army ; not hoping to prevail, but to sell dear his fate, and, if possible, to obtain vengeance upon some of our chiefs. They directed their course towards the part of the camp where I was, and had made some progress ; but our strength was soon called out. He resisted to the last, and sought death on every side ; but the troops, as I had desired, succeeded in surrounding and taking him alive. It is urged by some, that prompt and exemplary vengeance should be inflicted on these two great criminals. But I will not. Their wrongs against myself have been too great to render me an impartial judge. The assembled nation shall judge them : Let them be brought before the tribunal

of mankind, and there receive the sentence due. To summon that assembly will be the first use to be made of our power. The nation must be reinstated in all the rights which it ever possessed; it may even, at such a crisis, obtain any new privileges which appear to be salutary.

I proceed to the capital, and there is no obstacle to your immediately following. What felicity, my Selmida, now awaits us! All our suffering friends, delivered from their hard captivity, will be associated in our fortune. Soon will you meet parents, friends, the delight of your heart, from whom you seemed so widely, so hopelessly separated. Mercy will adorn our triumph: The great criminals must fall; but in those who were merely carried along by the torrent, allowance will be made for human frailty. If they submit and remain quiet, they will not be molested. But signal rewards await

those who stood firm to the righteous cause in its utmost depression ; who espoused it, when there was every thing to fear, and nothing to hope ;—honours unsought for shall descend upon their heads. Meantime, the exultation of the people, in all the districts through which we pass, presents the most grateful spectacle ; and they exhibit towards myself testimonies of regard, to which I cannot be insensible. A congratulatory embassy has already arrived from Kilan ; nor do I dread much from Bukaria, which alone, of all our neighbours, will be dissatisfied at this revolution. Engaged in a distant war, it will not rashly brave our arms, once proved so formidable, and now more zealous and united than ever. I have sent conciliatory propositions, which, I confidently hope, will meet their acceptance.

The nation has already begun to elect its deputies : Soon the assembly will be

held, by which its rights are to be renewed, and established on a permanent basis. To this happy result we all look forward with full assurance. Hasten, my Selmida, and bring with you that, which is alone wanting to complete my felicity.

FINIS.

1871
The first of the year
was a very cold one
and the weather was
very bad. The snow
was very deep and
the wind was very
strong. The people
were very much
distressed and
the government
was very much
troubled.





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